

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook

Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



Spring Creek Series

Richard E. Hart

Front Cover: *Carte de visite* of Abel W. Estabrook by Christopher S. German, National Gallery, Springfield, Illinois.

Back and Inside Back Cover: Perspective drawing of Springfield in 1867, showing the Springfield Academy building on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (now Capitol) Streets.



The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum is a not-for-profit organization founded in February, 2006, for the purpose of gathering, interpreting and exhibiting the history of Springfield and Central Illinois African Americans life in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

We invite you to become a part of this important documentation of a people's history through a membership or financial contribution. You will help tell the stories that create harmony, respect and understanding.

All proceeds from the sale of this pamphlet will benefit The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum.

Lincoln's Springfield: Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd
Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher.

Spring Creek Series.

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Richard E. Hart

Suite 501

One North Old State Capitol Plaza

Springfield, Illinois 62701

(217) 553-0055

rhart1213@aol.com

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

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Call for an Illinois Antislavery Convention
Alton, September 28, 1837, signed by Abel W. Estabrook¹

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¹ Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois. In the fall of 1996, the Illinois State Historical Library purchased this handbill, believed to be the only extant copy.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

FOREWORD

There are many biographies of Abraham Lincoln and the "important people" closely associated with him in politics, government and law. There are also many people who were associated with Lincoln and the Lincoln family in a less formal and public manner whose stories have not been told. These people are sometimes mentioned in Lincoln biographies, reminiscences and documentary transcriptions, where they are briefly identified in footnotes often informing the reader of not much more than their place of birth, age and occupation. I call them the footnote friends of Lincoln. They make cameo appearances in the Lincoln story. Abel W. Estabrook was such a person. He was an early Illinois abolitionist and Springfield teacher who for three years taught Robert Todd Lincoln.

My interest in Abel W. Estabrook stems from my hobby of collecting 19th century Springfield photographs. Several years ago, I acquired a small photograph (*carte de visite*) of a bearded man, standing in formal dress and peering into the camera lens of a Springfield photographer. On the reverse of the photograph, a backmark named the photographer, "C. S. German," and his studio, the "National Gallery." German is best known as the photographer who on February 9, 1861, took the last photograph of Lincoln in Springfield and one of the first photographs of Lincoln with his freshly grown beard.

As I examined the front of the photograph, I was surprised to see faint penciled handwriting below the picture—"Mr. Estabrook." The name "Estabrook" was vaguely familiar and after a quick search of a few Lincoln biographies, I relearned that "Abel W. Estabrook" had been a school teacher in Lincoln's Springfield. From the fall of 1850 until the spring of 1853, he taught Robert Todd Lincoln at the Springfield Academy, located on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (Capitol) Streets.

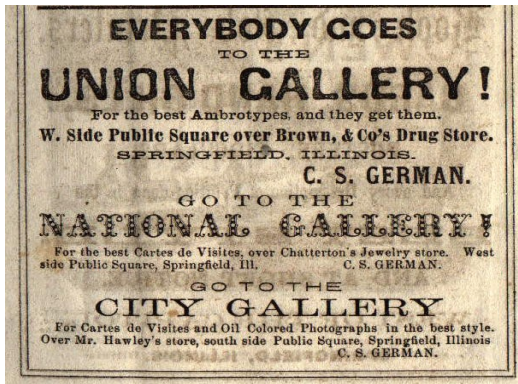
I questioned whether the man identified as "Mr. Esterbrook" on my C. S. German *carte de visite* was the "Abel W. Estabrook" who taught Robert Lincoln. After researching the lives of Estabrook and German, the circumstantial

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

evidence leads me to the conclusion that the German *carte de visite* identified as "Mr. Estabrook" is indeed a photograph of "Abel W. Estabrook." Here is my analysis of the evidence.

Christopher Smith German was a professional photographer in Springfield from 1858 to 1873.² The name "National Gallery" on the back of my photograph of "Mr. Estabrook" was used by German to identify his studio only between about 1863 and 1866. Furthermore, between August 1, 1864 and August 1, 1866, the United States government imposed a tax on all *carte de visite* photographs requiring that a stamp evidencing payment of the tax be placed on the back of each *carte de visite*. No such stamp appears on the back of my Estabrook *carte de visite*, and, therefore, that time period during which stamps were required can be eliminated in dating the photograph. Based upon these facts, I have concluded that the photograph was taken sometime between January 1, 1863 and August 1, 1864, at German's National Gallery over Chatterton's Jewelry store on the west side of the Public Square in Springfield.



1863 City Directory Advertisement For Christopher Smith German's Union, National and City Galleries³

² *Springfield Illinois' Nineteenth Century Photographers, (1845-1900)*, Richard E. Hart, Springfield, Illinois, 2005, pp. 102-120. C. S. German: *Photographer to President-Elect Lincoln*, Wayne C. Temple, Illinois Heritage, July-August 2006, Vol. 9, Number 4, pp. 9-13.

³ *Campbell & Richardson's Springfield City Directory and Business Mirror for 1863*, Johnson & Bradford, Booksellers and Printers, Springfield, Illinois, February 17, 1863, p. 3.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Having narrowed the time frame, I next looked for information on "Estabrooks," including Abel W. Estabrook, who were living in Sangamon County during that time period. I found biographies of the Estabrook family in *Genealogy of the Estabrook Family, including the Esterbrook and Easterbrooks in the United States*,⁴ and Estabrook data in the 1860 Census of Sangamon County. When I matched the dates of the photograph with the names and ages from the *Genealogy of the Estabrook Family* and the 1860 Census, I concluded that the *carte de visite* of "Mr. Estabrook" was, in my opinion, that of Abel W. Estabrook.

My thanks to Christopher A. Schnell who read and commented on an early draft and to Jason Emerson for his comments on the education of Robert Lincoln. Sheila Sullivan, my assistant, deserves a big thank you not only for her proofing but also for her valuable editorial contributions.

So who was Abel W. Estabrook, the distinguished, well groomed and dressed gentleman gazing out at us from an 1860s photograph probably taken by the same camera that took the last photograph of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield? He was a teacher and music lover and a member of a community of New Englanders on the Illinois prairie who were among the earliest Illinois abolitionists. For three years, he taught young Robert Todd Lincoln. Here is his story.

Richard E. Hart
Springfield, Illinois
September 1, 2009

⁴ *Genealogy of the Estabrook Family, including the Esterbrook and Easterbrooks in the United States*, William B. Estabrook, Ithaca, New York, Andrus & Church, 1891, pp. 78 and 132.
http://books.google.com/books?id=gkwGA_qNqCIC&dq=Abel+W.+Estabrook&q=abel+w. (Hereafter "Estabrook Genealogy.")

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Abel Wilder Estabrook was born in Vermont on October 8, 1815, the oldest of eight children of Heraldus and Abigail Wilder Estabrook. Heraldus was born in New Hampshire and Abigail was born in Vermont, both of old New England families.⁵

The Estabrook family seems to have been a ministerial one, for many of the members of the first few generations in this country were ministers. We also find priests of the name of Estebrok as far back as the year 1413, at Okehampton, County of Devon, and diocese of Exeter, England.

*The pioneer Estabrooks in this country were Puritans and came over from England in 1660. The family must have been of some consequence, for the two, Joseph and Thomas, who came over at that time, had received a preparatory education for college, and in those days only the higher classes were educated.*⁶

Heraldus' great grandfather, Samuel, and great, great grandfather, Joseph, attended Harvard in the 17th century and were ministers.

Abel's grandfather, Nehemiah Estabrook, was born at Mansfield Center, Connecticut on August 27, 1749. During the Revolutionary War, Nehemiah fought at the side of Washington, being one of his body-guards.

*He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war; was in retreat with Washington, when he planted a battery after crossing the Delaware river, and getting behind the hill to hide from his enemies—by a curve in the road—they mowed down the Hessians like grass, who attempted to cross the same bridge in hot pursuit. He said this was the only time he saw Washington laugh during the entire seven years.*⁷

⁵ Heraldus was born on June 30, 1785, and Abigail Wilder was born on May 5, 1789. Heraldus and Abigail were married on September 16, 1812, and had eight children: Abel Wilder, born on October 8, 1815, Eliza, born on January 21, 1818 in Hull, Canada, George H., born on August 19, 1819, Mary T., born on July 7, 1822, Marianne, born on June 20, 1824, George H., born on October 5, 1829, Harriett L., born on August 16, 1832, and Henry N., born on February 17, 1835. The 1870 Census and the 1880 Census both list Abigail W. Estabrook as a widow living with her daughter in Malone, Tazewell County, Illinois. Her parents are shown as having been born in Vermont. Abigail died in July 1883.

⁶ *Estabrook Genealogy*, p. 12.

⁷ *Estabrook Genealogy*, p. 30. *Lebanon, N. H. Centennial*, D. H. Allen, p 86.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Nothing is known of Abel's childhood. Sometime before August 22, 1833, he moved with his family from Vermont to Potsdam, St. Lawrence County, New York. On that date Abel, then 18 years old, and his parents joined a group of 52 New Englanders on a 1,000 mile migration from Potsdam to Sangamon County, Illinois. The migration grew out of an 1832 exploration by two middle-aged brothers, Azel and John R. Lyman. The brothers traveled from their Potsdam, New York homes to central Illinois to explore possible settlement sites for a group of New Englanders then living in Lawrence County, New York.

Such trips of exploration to the west from the settled east were common. Typically, the explorers would survey the possible site of new settlement and, if they found the site suitable, they would return home and gather family and friends for the journey of immigration to the new land.

The Lyman brothers found the prairie west of Springfield to be most suitable for settlement. In 1833, they returned to Potsdam and gathered 52 of their friends, neighbors and family members who traveled in fifteen large wagons on an almost ten week journey to the prairie site on the western edge of the American frontier. The group became known as the Lyman Colony. Among the members of the Lyman Colony were men who would become early, active Illinois abolitionists. Abel W. Estabrook was one of those men.⁸

⁸ *The Free Negro Question: Race Relations in Ant-Bellum Illinois, 1801-1860*, Charles N. Zucker, Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Doctor of Philosophy, Field of History, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, August, 1972, University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, pp. 21-22. *While the racial prejudice played an important role during the long controversy over the admission of slavery into early Illinois, it was not until the 1830's, when waves of Yankee settlers flooded Illinois, that the free Negro question became critical. Although New Englanders and Easterners were not without prejudice against blacks, their comparatively liberal attitudes toward the free Negro were enough to cause panic in southern Illinois. Who could be certain that the "abolitionist" counties of northern Illinois would not use their political power to wrest control of the state government from the older but less populated counties of southern Illinois? Once that was achieved, little would stand in the way of the alleged "abolitionist's" goals of uplift and racial equality. During the 1830's, consequently, the free Negro question became an issue of crisis proportions—a crisis, moreover, that would last until the Civil War.*

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

*They ... came west in wagons, being eight [ten] weeks on the way. They held divine service each Sunday on the route. The organization of the colony was kept up after coming to Sangamon County and a house of worship was soon after built.*⁹

After a journey of almost ten weeks, the Lyman Colony arrived at Springfield's market house on Friday, October 25, 1833. The *Sangamo Journal* reported on the event.

*On Friday last fifteen large wagons from St. Lawrence County, N. York, loaded with emigrants, arrived in our village, and drove up in front of the market house, in grand style. These emigrants had been about ten weeks on the journey, and enjoyed good health during the time. They design to settle in Sangamo County—to which we bid them welcome. ... Our northern counties are daily receiving inhabitants from New York, Ohio, and the Eastern States.*¹⁰

The following day, the Lyman Colony moved on to the site of the defunct village of Sangamo Town, on the Sangamon River eight miles northwest of Springfield.¹¹ The Colony spent the winter there, and on Sunday, January 12, 1834, organized the Farmington [now Farmingdale] Presbyterian Church. Abel W. Estabrook and his parents, Heraldu and Abigail, were among the organizers.¹²

⁹ *History of Sangamon County, Illinois*, Inter-State Publishing Company, Chicago, 1881, p. 915-916. (Hereafter "1881 History.")

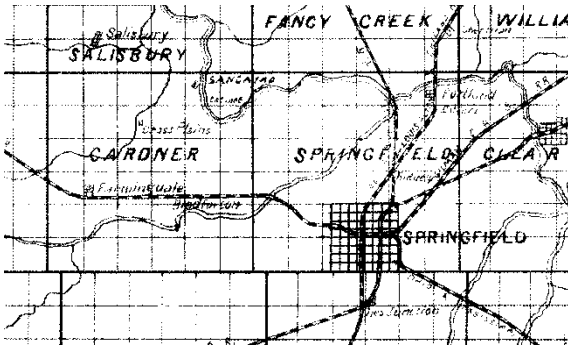
¹⁰ *Journal*, October 1833.

¹¹ 1881 History, p. 914. *The Memories of James Asahel Stone*, typed manuscript donated to the Sangamon Valley Collection by Marilyn Reed Pierson, North Ridgeville, Ohio, September 2001, p. 11. Stone described the arrival of the Lyman Colony: *The Lyman Colony (it was called) came from the east, in the fall of 1833, and when they came out of the woods at (where now is Bradfordton) the only house in sight was grandpa's [Ashel Stone] and the frame of father's [Ossian L. Stone] house, that was finished the spring of 1834, with all walnut lumber.*

¹² 1881 History, p. 914. *The Farmington Presbyterian Church was organized at Old Sangamon, on the second Sabbath of January, 1834, with the following persons as constituent members: Azel Lyman, and Mary P., his wife; Azel S. Lyman, Roxana Lyman; Alvin Lyman and Lucy, his wife; Ezra Lyman and Mercy, his wife; Ezra C. Lyman; Mary L. Lyman; Azabel Stone and Laura, his wife; William Robb and Mary, his wife; Phebe Robb, Elizabeth W. Robb, Jay Slater, Stephen Childs and Hannah, his wife; Luther N. Ransom and Zerviah, his wife; Heraldu Estabrook and Abigail, his wife; Abel Esterbrook, Amanda Ransom, Oliver Bates and Charity, his wife; Chancy D. Colton, Francis L. Stone and Laura A.*

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



Circa 1870 Map of Springfield, Illinois and Townships to the West, Showing the Villages of Sangamo and Farmington (Farmington)

In the spring of 1834, members of the Lyman Colony moved a short distance southwest from Sangamo Town to an open prairie on Prairie Creek where they settled, farmed and built a church structure near the northwest corner of present-day Farmington Cemetery.

The Lyman Colony move was a small part of a larger American phenomenon, the migration of New Englanders to what was then known as the West and is now the Mid-West—in particular to central and northern Illinois.¹³ These

Stone. Almost all of these persons were members of a colony that came a short time previous, from Northern New York. Henry P. Lyman and Mercy, his wife, united soon afterwards, members also of the colony. The first officers in the church were, Azel Lyman, Heraldus Estabrook and Luther N. Ransom. Reverend John G. Bergen, D. D., the founder and minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, conducted the first meeting of the newly organized church.

¹³ The New England migration phenomenon has been well described by historians. *The Social Order of a Frontier Community*, Jacksonville, Illinois, 1825-70, Don Harrison Doyle, University of Illinois Press, 1983, pp. 28-29. (Hereafter "Social Order.") *There were some attempts to transport a New England community model to the West; indeed, some twenty-eight Yankee "colonies" were established in Illinois in the 1830's alone. Gathered from the declining rural villages of New England and upstate New York, the colonists were transplanted as cohesive units into the Illinois wilderness, following a pattern reminiscent of their Puritan ancestors. Southern migrants already in Illinois criticized what they saw as the snobbish exclusiveness of these Yankee colonies...*

Illinois Monthly Magazine 2 (1831), pp. 112-114. *Now a compact body of people settling as a colonized community... have at once a school, a church, etc. in which they cordially unite. This society is a model to the country round... And then, after the difficulties of founding and perfecting*

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

transplanted New Englanders created new communities on the prairies that imitated those of their New England roots and reflected their New England values. In Sangamon County, the New Englanders would overlay and mix with the early settlers from the upland south who brought different lifestyles and values. The two cultures would clash over issues of slavery and race and out of that clash would come a unique environment that was familiar to Abraham Lincoln.

Just five years earlier and twenty miles to the west, another group of New Englanders, seven young Yale College graduates, settled in Jacksonville, Illinois, where they founded Illinois College, Illinois' first college. The founders had come west to Jacksonville as members of the Yale Band, formed "to promote collegiate and theological education in the West."¹⁴ They selected Edward Beecher as the first Illinois College President. Beecher, a 27-year-old Yale graduate, left his position as pastor at Boston's Park Street Church and came west to Jacksonville where he served 14 years as President of Illinois College. His sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, was the author of the anti-slavery classic, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. His

their own community are overcome, they naturally proceed to aid in the improvement of their less privileged and advanced neighbors.

Social Order, p. 29. What the Yankee colonists were proposing was a frontier version of the Puritan "city upon a hill." It would be an "organic community," a homogeneous, stable, miniature society with its own church and school that embodied the community's collective values. This model of society would have been difficult enough to apply to New England in the nineteenth century; in frontier Illinois, with its diverse, mobile population, it was an impossible dream.

¹⁴ *God's Frontiersmen: The Yale Band in Illinois*, John Randolph Willis, University Press of America, Washington, D.C., 1979, p. 19. In November 1828 at a meeting of the College Society of Inquiry Respecting Missions he delivered a paper called "The Encouragement to Active Individual Efforts in the Cause of Christ." Afterward, he spoke with friends about projects for opening schools on the frontier and these discussions resulted in the founding of the Yale Band "to promote collegiate and theological education in the West." Other members of the Yale Band included Mason Grosvenor, Albert Hale (who was pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Springfield from 1839 to around 1867), Flavel Bascom, William Kirby, Elisha Jenney, and Asa Turner. The group would also be instrumental in the founding of Wabash College, Beloit College, Western Reserve University, Marietta College, Knox College, the Lane Theological Seminary (Cincinnati), and Chicago Theological Seminary.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

brother, Henry Ward Beecher, visited Illinois College where he preached and lectured.¹⁵

In 1835, Edward Beecher and the Illinois College faculty became acquainted with Elijah P. Lovejoy when he made several visits to the campus. Lovejoy spoke in favor of the immediate emancipation of all American slaves, a position not immediately agreed to by Beecher. After Lovejoy's second visit to the campus in 1835, however, Beecher became an advocate of immediate emancipation. "He [Lovejoy] gave them as much encouragement as he could, and in due time the religious background all of them shared led the majority to become abolitionists, and the college to become a center of antislavery sentiment."¹⁶ Two years later, Beecher would sign a call for an Illinois Anti-Slavery Convention and later the constitution of the Illinois Anti-Slavery Society. In short, by 1836, Illinois College had become an Illinois center of abolitionist support and advocacy.



**Beecher Hall at Illinois College, Built In 1829-30 and
Originally Known as The College Building**

¹⁵ *An American Family: The Beecher Tradition*,

<http://newman.baruch.cuny.edu/digital/2001/beecher/edward.htm>

Edward Beecher was born in Litchfield, Conn, the eldest son of Dr. Lyman Beecher. He graduated at Yale College in 1827; studied theology two years at Andover; was a tutor in Yale College in 1825-6; ordained December 27, 1826; pastor of Park Street Church, Boston, Mass., 1826-31; President of Illinois College, Jacksonville, 1831-44; Pastor of Salem Street Church, Boston, Mass., 1844-55; associate editor of the *Congregationalist*, 1849-53; resided in Galesburg, Ill., in 1855, and in 1879, in Brooklyn, N. Y.

¹⁶ *Elijah P. Lovejoy, Abolitionist Editor*, Merton Dillon, The University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Illinois, 1961, p. 178. *Freedom's Champion, Elijah Lovejoy*, Paul Simon, The Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, Illinois, 1994, p. 10. (Hereafter "Freedom's Champion.")

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

In the fall of 1836, Abel W. Estabrook, then 21 years old, left his home at Farmington and went west twenty miles to Jacksonville where he enrolled in the Preparatory Department of Illinois College. Among Abel's 42 classmates were 18-year-old William H. Herndon of Springfield and Abel's roommates and members of the Lyman Colony, Azel S. Lyman of Farmington¹⁷ and Jeremiah D. Low of Chatham.¹⁸ The Illinois College catalogue stated that the students were to be taught arithmetic and the languages, preparatory for admission to the freshman class. The books used were: Adams' Arithmetic, Adams' Latin Grammar (Gould's Edition), Goodrich's Greek Grammar, Latin Reader, Greek Reader, Virgil, Sallust, and Cicero's Secret Orations.¹⁹

Lincoln's Herndon, David Donald's landmark biography of Abel's classmate, William H. Herndon, describes Herndon's experience in the Preparatory Department at Illinois College in 1836.

¹⁷ Azel Lyman (1784-1873) Azel Lyman was born on August 1, 1784, at Lebanon, Connecticut, and in 1786 was taken by his parents to Brookfield, Vermont. In 1808, Azel married in Randolph, Vermont to Roxana Fisk, who was born there on December 12, 1788. They moved to Potsdam, New York in 1810, had three living children, and Roxana died there on June 7, 1829. Azel was married in 1830 at Potsdam to Mary P. Bates, who was born there on February 2, 1809. In 1833, Azel, Mary and their children moved to Sangamon County with Azel's four brothers in the Lyman Colony. Azel was an active Sunday school worker, establishing Sunday schools in thirty-five Illinois counties. Azel and Mary had eight children, six of whom were born in Sangamon County. Azel's children by Roxana, his first wife, were: Azel S., born in Potsdam, New York, married in Cincinnati, Ohio, raised a family, and resided in New York City. He invented a method of making paper from wood, a refrigerating vessel and a historical chart.

¹⁸ It is interesting to note that Jeremiah D. Low went on to become principal of the Academic Department of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He conducted a program, in which 100 boys from age ten on were enrolled in an eight-year course of English, French and German, history, mathematics, the mechanic arts, and physical sciences. Students began Latin in the fourth year and Greek in the fifth; the study of the classics, Low said, imparts a mental discipline that "we cannot afford to lose." He summed up: "We desire not so much that the pupil shall master the book as the subject; not so much to learn many things as to learn much." <http://wupa.wustl.edu/historybook/pgs18-19.pdf>.

¹⁹ *Officers and Students of Illinois College 1836-7*, Jacksonville, Illinois, printed by E. T. & C. Goudy, 1837. (Hereafter "Illinois College 1836-37.")

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Since admittance to the freshman class required passing examinations in geography, arithmetic, Latin, and Greek, Herndon enrolled in the high school department, where Reuben Gaylord, A.B. Yale, presided over classes in "Arithmetic and the Languages, preparatory for admission to the Freshman class." ...There was the inspiring personal contact with great teachers, Edward Beecher, Julian M. Sturtevant and Jonathan B. Turner, in whose judgment and integrity he had unlimited confidence. ... As he looked back on his year of college many decades later, Herndon remembered the whole time there as a perpetual romance.²⁰

In the fall of 1837, Billy Herndon did not return for a second year at Illinois College. He attributed this to his father's fear that he would become "a damned abolitionist pup." David Donald, however, attributes his failure to return to other causes.

...the Illinois College faculty minutes for September 14 of that year [1837] carry the ominous resolution: "That Herndon be informed he cannot study here next year [which was to begin in November] unless he study so as to pass a satisfactory examination in Arithmetic." The difficulty was that in November the preparatory department was to be discontinued and Herndon was unable to meet the college entrance requirements. There is no record that Billy passed his examination or that he was admitted to the college at the start of the new term.²¹

Donald goes on to speculate that the Panic of 1837 may have left Archer Herndon, Billy's father, in poor financial condition, or "that father, who had publicly sworn eternal hostility to abolitionists, did hastily yank his favorite son from the hotbed of antislavery" or that perhaps Billy just flunked out.

In any event, on September 28, 1837, as Abel was about to begin his second year at Illinois College, abolitionist advocacy came to the fore on the Illinois prairie. Abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy composed a notice calling for an Illinois anti-slavery convention to be held at Upper Alton, Illinois on October 26, 1837. The notice was signed by 245 supporters

²⁰ *Lincoln's Herndon*, David Herbert Donald, 1948, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, p. 10. (Hereafter "Lincoln's Herndon.")

²¹ *Lincoln's Herndon*, pp. 12-13.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

and was published as a handbill pictured on the frontispiece. This is the earliest comprehensive list of persons who were Illinois abolitionists. The following is a transcription of that handbill.

STATE CONVENTION.

The present aspect of the slavery question in this country, and especially in this State, is of commanding interest to us all. No question is, at the present time, exerting so strong an influence upon the public mind as this. The whole land is agitated by it. We cannot, nor would we remain indifferent spectators in the midst of developments so vitally interesting to us all, as those which are daily taking place in relation to the system of American Slavery. — We have duties to perform, as Christians and as Patriots, which call for united wisdom, counsel and energy of action.

The undersigned would, therefore, respectfully call a meeting of the friends of the slave and of free discussion in the State of Illinois, to meet in Convention at Upper Alton, on the last Thursday of October. It is intended that this Convention should consist of all those in the State who believe that the system of American Slavery is sinful and ought to be immediately abandoned, however diversified may be their views in other respects. It is desirable that the opponents in this State of Domestic Slavery — all who ardently long and pray to witness its immediate abolition, should co-operate together in their efforts to accomplish it. We therefore hope that all such will make it a point of duty to attend the Convention, not thereby feeling that they are pledged to any particular course of action, but that they may receive as well as impart the benefit of mutual counsel and advice.

It is earnestly to be hoped that there will be a full attendance at the Convention. Let all who feel deeply interested in this cause, not only attend themselves, but stir up their neighbors to attend also. And let each one remember that this call cannot be repeated. But for the destruction of the "Observer" press it would have been circulated some time since. It is hoped, that it will have some time to circulate in season to bring together a large number of our friends from all parts of the State.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

The 245 men who signed the call for the convention were from seventeen communities in ten Illinois counties.²² Of the 245 signers, 40 were from Sangamon County.²³ Twenty of those 40 Sangamon County signers were members of the Lyman Colony who lived at Farmington or Chatham or were men associated with the Lyman Colony at these locations. Among those 20 Lyman Colony signers were Heraldus Estabrook, Abel's father, and Azel S. Lyman, Abel's roommate at Illinois College. Of the 32 Jacksonville signers, only 13 were actual residents of Jacksonville, including Edward Beecher. The remaining 19 were students at Illinois College, and included Abel Estabrook even though his home was at Farmington. Billy Herndon was not among the signers.

The anti-slavery convention was held and on October 28, 1837, the convention adopted a constitution for the Illinois Anti-Slavery Society. Edward Beecher was among the signers of the constitution. The impact of the abolitionist activities at Alton—the convention and adoption of a constitution as well as the murder of Elijah P. Lovejoy on November 7th—led to a Lovejoy Protest Meeting on the campus of Illinois College that “did much to create wide-spread sentiment against slavery.” David Donald best described the events at Illinois College during that tumultuous fall of 1837, events that Abel W. Estabrook would have witnessed and experienced firsthand.

All the prominent members of the Illinois College faculty were originally from New England, and all became converts to abolitionism. At first they had felt that education and the slow processes of time would eradicate the peculiar institution, while demands for immediate abolition might aggravate Southern antagonism. In 1836-37, however, most were persuaded that direct action was necessary, not only to eliminate slavery in the South but to prevent its malignant growth into the free North. Stubborn, self-righteous Elijah P. Lovejoy, a Presbyterian minister from Maine, had voiced antislavery views in his St. Louis newspaper. Repeatedly threatened by mob violence, Lovejoy crossed the river to Alton, Illinois, where he began

²² Those signing included 56 of Quincy, 42 of Galesburg, 32 of Jacksonville, 23 of Alton, 20 of Springfield, 15 of Farmington, and 5 of Chatham and 72 in other places. Significantly, no one south of Alton signed the convention call. *Freedom's Champion*, p. 97.

²³ The names of the Sangamon County signers may be found at page 47.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

publishing the Observer, at first largely eschewing discussion of abolition but eventually damning slaveholders to a Calvinistic hell. Alton residents, mostly from the South and looking to Southern cities for their markets, were alarmed. Angry at what they considered a breach of the editor's pledge not to ride his antislavery hobbyhorse, the citizens took the law in their hands, again and again threw his printing presses into the river, and finally killed Lovejoy and some of his followers.

The news of Lovejoy's death on November 7, 1837, traveled quickly. Abolitionists canonized him as a martyr to the holy cause, and "the Alton catastrophe did more to increase their numbers and inflame their feelings, than their warfare upon slavery itself."

Jacksonville, with its turbulent mixture of Yankee and Southern settlers, was particularly upset. President Edward Beecher of Illinois College had been in Alton the week of Lovejoy's death and had vigorously and uncompromisingly championed his right to publish abolitionist views in the face of universal opposition. Others among the Illinois College faculty were also in full sympathy with Lovejoy. When the news of the editor's death reached Jacksonville, an indignation meeting was held on the campus at which "faculty and students were loud and unrestrained in their denunciation of the crime."²⁴



Marker Near Beecher Hall at Illinois College, Memorializing the Students who Participated in the Lovejoy Protest Meeting

Don Doyle's excellent description of Jacksonville in general and Illinois College in particular during this period provides a glimpse into the environment that Abel experienced in the fall of 1837, the beginning of his second year at Illinois College.

²⁴ *Lincoln's Herndon*, p. 11.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

After losing the contest for the state capital, Jacksonville might have settled back to nurture its status as a educational center, but events of 1837 brought uncertainty to this goal as well. The involvement of Edward Beecher in the antislavery convention preceding Lovejoy's murder that November tainted Illinois College with the unpopular cause of abolitionism. The controversy over slavery seriously frustrated the growth of the college during its formative years, and this problem was exacerbated by the ruinous effects of the Panic of 1837. The \$100,000 in subscriptions which local supporters had pledged to the college endowment were now worthless promises, and the college's land fell in value or became altogether unsalable. The harried institution survived public opposition and financial crisis only through the sacrifices of loyal faculty who taught for several years with little or no pay.²⁵

In 1839, Abel enrolled as a sophomore at Illinois College. There were twelve students in his class, and among them were Azel S. Lyman of Farmington, his roommate, Jeremiah D. Low of Chatham and J. Dewy Whitney of Springfield. The college records listed Abel's home address as Farmington and his occupation as farmer.²⁶

In Abel's junior year at Illinois College, 1840-1841, he was in a class of only nine students, including Azel S. Lyman of Farmington, Jeremiah D. Low of Chatham and Jackson Dewy Whitney of Springfield.

On August 14, 1841, Illinois College student "Abel W. Estabrook of Jacksonville" was elected Secretary of the State Musical Society, organized to promote the cause of music in churches, academies and common schools.²⁷ It is interesting to note that J. F. Rague of Springfield was elected a Vice President. Rague was the architect of the Illinois State House, now the Old State Capitol.

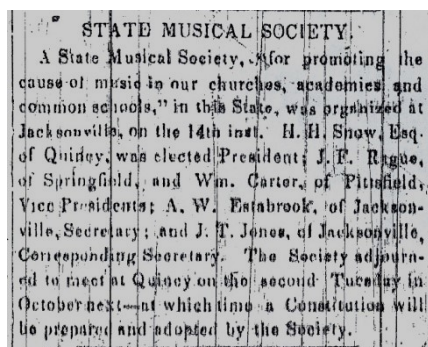
²⁵ *Social Order*, p. 66.

²⁶ Illinois College records in the Public Relations Office, Jacksonville, Illinois. *Illinois College 1836-7. Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Illinois College, 1838-40*, Jacksonville, Goudys' Job Office, 1840. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Illinois College, 1842-43*, Jacksonville, Russell B. Mitchell, 1843. *Catalogue of the Officers, Alumni and Former Students of Illinois College, 1829-1912*, Jacksonville, Illinois, 1912.

²⁷ *Journal*, August 20, 1841, p. 2, cl. 3.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



Abel W. Estabrook Elected Secretary of Illinois State Musical Society

In the spring of 1842, Abel W. Estabrook graduated from Illinois College, receiving an A. B. degree.²⁸ He was 26 years-old. Abel moved to Springfield where he began a teaching career that would last twenty-some years.

On August 26, 1842, George Kimball of the Springfield Seminary published a notice in the *Journal* that he and Abel Estabrook would “re-open the male department of the Springfield Seminary on Monday next.” This would have been the beginning of the fall term that ran from September through December. The notice stated that “Music, both in its elements and practice, will be taught, without additional charge, as a regular branch of Education in this school, by Mr. Estabrook.”



George Kimball and Abel W. Estabrook Announce
Re-Opening of Springfield Seminary²⁹

²⁸ Illinois College records in the Public Relations Office, Jacksonville, Illinois.

²⁹ *Journal*, August 26, 1842, p. 2, cl. 7.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

The December 16, 1842 edition of the *Journal* contained an invitation to the public to attend an "Exhibition at the Springfield Seminary on Thursday evening," December 22.

NOTICE.—There will be an Exhibition at the Springfield Seminary on Thursday evening, 22d Dec. instant. The public generally are invited to attend. Dec.12.

Journal Notice of Exhibition at Springfield Seminary³⁰

On Tuesday, April 11, 1843, Abel Estabrook directed singing of "Temperance music" at a meeting of the Washington Temperance Society held in the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield.³¹

Washington Temperance Society
Will meet in the First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday evening next at 7 o'clock. An address will be delivered by Rev. J. P. LANCASTER. Some choice selections of Temperance music will be sung under direction of Mr. Estabrook. The public are invited to attend.
April 6. A. R. ROBINSON, Secretary.

Abel W. Estabrook Directs Singing of Temperance Music
at Washington Temperance Society

³⁰ *Journal*, December 16, 1842, p. 3, cl. 2.

³¹ *Journal*, April 6, 1843. *Here I Have Lived*, Paul M. Angle, The Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois, 1935, pp. 194-195. (Hereafter "Here I Have Lived.") *Beginning in Baltimore in 1840, when a number of habitual drinkers pledged themselves to total abstinence and determined to persuade others to do likewise, the [Washington temperance] movement spread rapidly. In mid-December, 1841, a delegation from Alton organized the First Springfield Washington Temperance Society. By the last day of the month the membership numbered 350, and six months afterward it was said that there were 700 Washingtonians in Springfield and 2,000 in Sangamon County. Prominent among them was Abraham Lincoln, who delivered the address at the first gala meeting — on Washington's Birthday, 1842...*

But the Washingtonian movement was too emotional to endure. Taking its place in the agitation against alcoholic liquor came the Sons of Temperance. This organization was founded in 1845 as a secret order whose members were pledged to temperance. Spreading slowly at first, by 1848 it was active enough in Springfield to hold demonstrations on Washington's Birthday and the Fourth of July, and nearly every year thereafter these days were occasions for parades in full regalia and public meetings devoted to the evils of strong drink.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



First Presbyterian Church, Southeast Corner of Washington and Third Streets,
Site of Washington Temperance Society Meeting, April 11, 1843

On April 23, 1846, Abel W. Estabrook and Laura W. Culver were married in Sangamon County, Illinois.³² Laura, born in New York in 1828, was the daughter of Oliver Belden and Betsey Holcomb Culver of Springfield. Oliver was one of the signers of Lovejoy's 1837 call for an Illinois anti-slavery convention and one of the subscribers to the Springfield Anti-Slavery Society Constitution.³³ Clearly he was an abolitionist.

On August 4, 1846, Abel's father, Heraldus, died at age 61, and was buried in Farmington Cemetery.³⁴

³² *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index*, 002/0243, Sangamon.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/marriage.html>

³³ Oliver Belden Culver was born on March 11, 1791, in Shoreham, Addan, Vermont. His parents were Eliakim and Theodosia (Thede) Belden Culver. In about 1819, Oliver married Betsey Holcomb in New York.

³⁴ The probate file of Heraldus Estabrook is in the Illinois Regional Archives Depository, Brookens Library, University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield, Illinois.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



Grave Marker of Heraldus Estabrook in Farmington Cemetery,
Gardner Township, Sangamon County, Illinois

In 1847 at age 32, Abel W. Estabrook began his ten year association with the Springfield Academy. The Academy had been formed as a joint stock company on March 1, 1839. The members of the first Board of Trustees were: Washington Iles, F. Webster, Jr., Stephen T. Logan, John F. Rague, Nicholas H. Ridgely, Robert Allen, and Charles R. Matheny, President.³⁵

On April 27, 1839, the Trustees paid \$1,000 to Elvira L. Edwards for two lots on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (now Capitol) Streets.³⁶ The

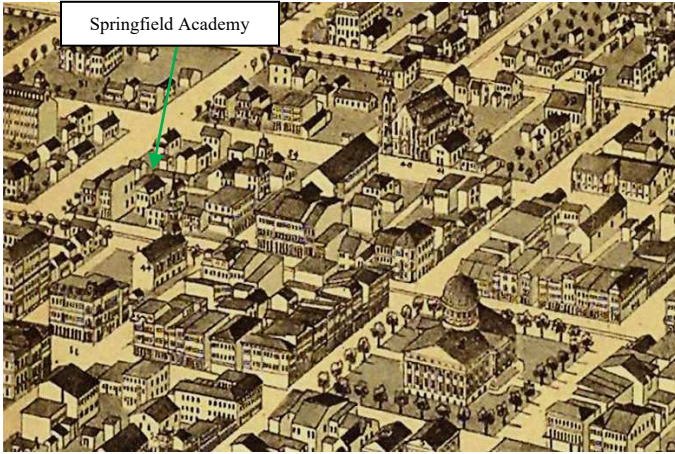
³⁵ 1881 History, pp. 586-587.

³⁶ Lots 11 and 12 of Block 1 in the Elvira Edwards Addition to the City of Springfield. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book O, p. 568 and Book AA, p. 12. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Comment by Curtis Mann: *On November 27, 1847, the State Bank of Illinois transferred its interest (probably releasing a mortgage) in the Springfield Academy property on South Fifth Street, "being the premises on which the Springfield Academy now stands," to the Trustees of Springfield Academy for \$750. The building*

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Trustees began construction there of a \$7,000, two-story brick building that would accommodate 100 to 150 students. In September, 1839, before the building was fully completed, the Springfield Academy opened as a "High School" for boys taught by Mr.'s Town and Sill.³⁷



1872 Perspective Drawing of Springfield, Illinois Showing the Springfield Academy on Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (Capitol) Streets

By September 1840, the Springfield Academy building had been finished and was "prepared for the accommodation of schools for pupils of both sexes according to the original design."³⁸ It opened on October 12, 1840, under the direction of Rev. John F. Brooks, one of the members of the Yale Band who founded Illinois College, and two assistants.³⁹ Brooks remained until the spring of 1843. In 1844, Rev. Francis Springer followed and continued until 1847.

alone cost \$7,000 when it was constructed in 1840, so this \$750 must have been the pay-off amount on a debt owed the State Bank.

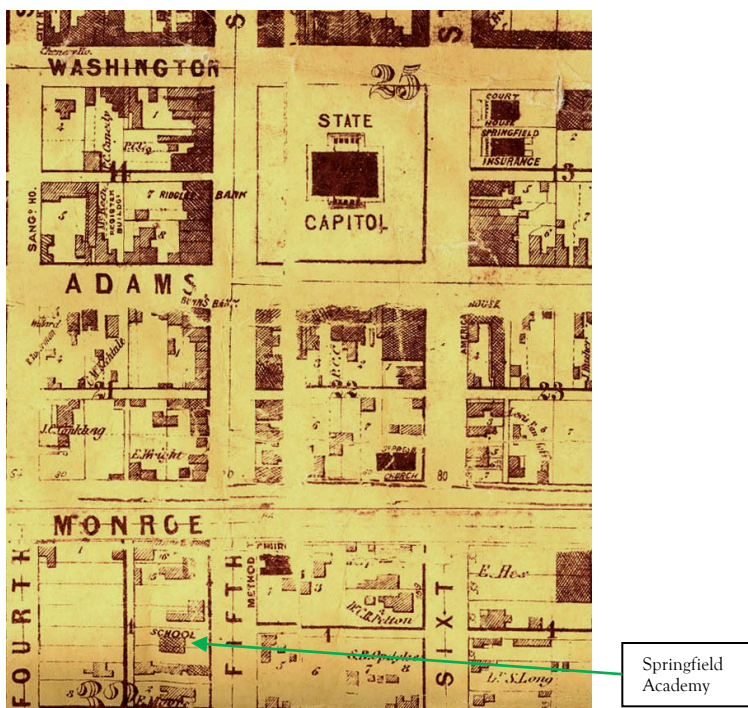
³⁷ *Here I Have Lived*, p. 200.

³⁸ *Journal*, September 18, 1840, p. 3, cl. 1.

³⁹ *1881 History*, pp. 598-599, 687. *History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois*, John Carroll Power, 1876, p. 144. *John Brooks was one of seven young men who banded together, while in the theological school at Yale to establish a college in Illinois. Illinois College, at Jacksonville is the result of their exertions. Mr. Brooks has been one of its trustees from the first.*

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



1858 Map of Springfield, Illinois Showing the “School,” Springfield Academy, on Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (Capitol) Streets⁴⁰

On November 23, 1847, Estabrook and H. D. Brigaam [Brigham]⁴¹ published a notice in the *Journal* that they had “taken the Academy” [the Springfield Academy] where they would conduct a college preparatory school for young men. They announced that “It is also designed to make this school one of the higher order, so that young men wishing to pursue a liberal course of study, shall be prepared to enter any College in the land.”

⁴⁰ 1858 *Map of the City of Springfield*, William Sides, City Engineer, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

⁴¹ Probably H. D. Brigham who is listed in the 1850 census of Springfield as a 35 year-old grocer born in New Hampshire and living with his 35 year-old wife, Mary. By 1860, the Brigham's were living in Christian County. 1850 Census, *Springfield, Sangamon, Illinois*; Roll M432_127; page: 84; Image: 171. 1860 Census, *Pana, Christian, Illinois*; Roll M653_161; page: 737; Image: 76. *History of the Presbyterian Church in the State of Illinois*, Augustus Theodore Norton, W. S. Bryan, Publisher, St. Louis, Missouri, p. 483.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

SPRINGFIELD ACADEMY.--A. W. Es-
TABROOK and H. D. BRIGAAM would announce to the citizens of Springfield and vicinity, that having located in this city with the view of engaging permanently in teaching: they have taken the Academy, where they will endeavor to furnish to all who may be placed under their tuition the rudiments of a good English education. It is also designed to make this school one of the higher order, so that young men wishing to pursue a liberal course of study, shall be prepared to enter any College in the land.

There will be two departments in the institution.--a Classical and a Primary--each under the care of well qualified instructors.

And under such direction it is hoped the school will be such as the community may desire; and the teachers promise that no pains will be spared to make it such.

The Academic year will be divided into four quarters of 11 weeks each.

Terms per quarter in the Primary Department:

Reading and Spelling.	\$2 00
English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetis and Geography.	4 00

Terms per quarter in the Classical Department:

Latin, Greek and Algebra,	\$5 00
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and English Grammar,	4 00
All other branches.	4 00

Springfield, Nov. 23, 1849. 49

Abel W. Estabrook and H. D. Brigaam [Brigham]
Announce Opening of Springfield Academy⁴²

Estabrook and Brigaam [Brigham] divided the Springfield Academy into two departments, Classical and Primary, and the school year into four quarters of 11 weeks each. Tuition per quarter ranged from \$2.00 to \$4.00 for the Primary Department and from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for the Classical Department depending upon the courses taken, which included Latin and Greek.

On October 21, 1848, Abel W. Estabrook paid \$130 to purchase a vacant residential lot from Erastus Wright, a well known Springfield abolitionist who was one of the signers of the 1837 call for an Illinois Anti-Slavery Convention. The lot was one block south of the Lincoln Home on the east side of Eighth Street. Wright had purchased the lot from Jacob Loose on July 24, 1844, for \$200. On September 13, 1849, Abel sold this lot to James Morse for \$200.⁴³

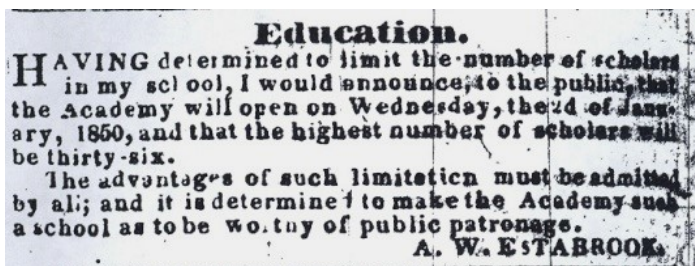
⁴² *Journal*, November 25, 1847, p. 2, cl. 4.

⁴³ *Historical Base Map, Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois*, Edwin C. Bearss, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior,

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

On Wednesday, January 2, 1850, Abel opened the Springfield Academy's school term and announced that he had "determined to limit the number of scholars in my school" to 36. This was the beginning of Abel's eighth year as a Springfield teacher.



Journal Announcement of Abel W. Estabrook's Academy Opening⁴⁴

The 1850 United States Census for Springfield listed Abel as a 35-year-old school teacher who owned property valued at \$1,500. Living with him were his 22-year-old wife, Laura who was born in New York, and a 14-year-old boy named Lyman Moos[r]e who was born in Illinois. On July 11, 1850, Abel received an A. M. degree⁴⁵ from Illinois College at Jacksonville from which he had graduated in 1842.⁴⁶

In the fall of 1850, the beginning of the 1850-51 school year—probably in September of 1850—Robert Todd Lincoln, who had just turned seven on August 1, became a student at Abel W. Estabrook's Springfield Academy. From that fall until the end of the 1852-53 school term, three full school years, Robert attended Estabrook's Springfield Academy. He began at age seven and completed his schooling there at age nine.⁴⁷ As stated earlier, the Academy was

November 30, 1969, pp. 86-87. Lots 7 & 8, Block 11. Why Abel bought and sold the lot within one year is not known. This lot was improved circa 1881 and became known as the Solomon Allen site in the Lincoln Home National Site.

⁴⁴ *Journal*, January 22, 1850, p. 2, cl. 5.

⁴⁵ An A. M. degree is a master's degree and is more commonly designated an M. A. degree.

⁴⁶ *Journal*, July 12, 1850, p. 3, cl. 1. Illinois College records in the Public Relations Office, Jacksonville, Illinois. *Catalogue of the Officers, Alumni and Former Students of Illinois College, 1829-1912*, Jacksonville, Illinois, 1912, p. 25.

⁴⁷ Robert Todd Lincoln was born on August 1, 1843.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

located on the west side of Fifth Street between Monroe and Capitol (Market) Streets, 4 ½ blocks west of the Lincoln home.⁴⁸

The facts of Robert's early schooling are somewhat obscure. He himself recalled, "I have a dim recollection of being under the slipper-guardianship of a School mistress until 1850," and then for the next three years he was in attendance at an academy operated by a Mr. [Abel W.] Esterbrook.⁴⁹ There is a tradition that when Robert was learning Latin at this time, his father studied along with him and the two declined nouns together.⁵⁰



Robert Todd Lincoln, 1858

The dimness of Robert's recollection of the "slipper-guardianship of a School mistress" is perhaps explained by the fact that in the three years preceding Robert's enrollment at Estabrook's Springfield Academy, Robert spent at least 365

⁴⁸ *Abraham Lincoln: From Skeptic to Prophet*, Dr. Wayne C. Temple, Mayhaven Publishing, Mahomet, Illinois, 1995, p. 45. (Hereafter "Prophet.") Dr. Temple says that the Estabrook Academy was located at the northeast corner of Seventh and Edwards Street. This is not the case. Estabrook's Academy was on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (Capitol). Temple also notes that George Latham, Robert's Lincoln's friend, also attended Estabrook's Springfield Academy. "The Latham house stood only a few blocks from the Lincolns' Jackson Street dwelling, and George grew close to the Lincolns' eldest son, Robert. Together, they attended the local Estabrook Academy..."

⁴⁹ Not Esterbrook; the correct spelling was noted by Dr. Wayne C. Temple on p. 42 of the Spring, 2000 edition of the *Lincoln Herald*. *Prophet*, p. 45.

⁵⁰ *Robert Todd Lincoln*, John S. Goff, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1969, p. 17. (Hereafter "Goff.") *Autobiography of Robert T. Lincoln*, Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

days—more than a full year—outside of Springfield. From October 25, 1847 to October 10, 1848, he was in Lexington, Kentucky, Washington, D.C. and then back to Lexington, Kentucky. From October 18 to November 13, 1849, Robert and his family again visited Mary's Todd relatives in Lexington, Kentucky. During these periods of absence, Robert would have missed what he so quaintly recalled as "being under the slipper-guardianship of a School mistress until 1850" if that School mistress was in Springfield. It is not known if Robert received any schooling while in Washington or Lexington.

In addition to the extended periods of Robert's absence from Springfield, beginning in the fall of 1848 and continuing until Robert first entered Estabrook's Springfield Academy in the fall of 1850, the Lincoln household experienced a series of events that affected the family in general and in particular must have affected Robert's focus on his school work.

For over six months, from October 10, 1848 to May 1849, the Lincoln family lived at the Globe Tavern. This was while the Lincoln residence on Eighth Street was still under written lease to C. Ludlum.⁵¹ Abraham and Mary had first lived at the Globe Tavern for a year following their marriage on November 4, 1842, and it was here that Robert Lincoln was born. Indeed, this must have been an environment that did not foster family life for Abraham, Mary, 3-year-old Eddie and Robert.



Globe Tavern
North Side of Adams Street, Between Third and Fourth Streets

⁵¹ *Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage*, Ruth Painter Randall, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1953, pp. 128-129. (Hereafter "Randall.")

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Shortly after returning to her home on Eighth Street, Mary's father, Robert S. Todd, died on July 16, 1849. As noted earlier, from October 18 to November 13, 1849, Robert and his family visited Mary's Todd relatives in Lexington, Kentucky.

In December of 1849, following the fall trip to Lexington, Kentucky, Robert's three year-old brother, Eddie, became quite ill with what was thought to be diphtheria but was most likely pulmonary tuberculosis.

On January 26, 1850, Mary's grandmother, Elizabeth R. Parker, died, and on February 1, 1850, after fifty-two days of sickness, Eddie Lincoln died.⁵² "Robert, by then an alert boy nearing seven, must have felt the loss keenly. The death of Eddie cut Robert off from sibling associations."⁵³

Shaken and disconsolate in their first great sorrow, seeking escape from surroundings that constantly reminded them of their little son, Mary and her husband took advantage of business in connection with the settlement of the Parker estate and came back to Lexington several weeks after Eddie's death.⁵⁴

In March, 1850, Mary, then 31 years old, became pregnant and on December 21 gave birth to a son, William Wallace.

After Eddie's death and Mary's new pregnancy, Abraham realized that Mary was not well enough to take care of their house and their 6 year-old son, Robert, particularly since Abraham would be gone on the circuit for long periods of time. In early April of 1850 (probably April 1 or 2), Lincoln visited the home of African American Maria Vance on the north side of west Washington Street, between College and Pasfield. Maria had cleaned Lincoln's law office and he now asked Maria to work as a maid at his home. Maria agreed to do so and from 1850 to 1860, she served as a cook, laundress and maid for the Lincolns. Maria did not live in the

⁵² *Lincoln Day By Day, A Chronology 1809-1865*, Earl Schenck Miers, Editor-in-Chief, Morningside, Dayton, Ohio, 1991, p. 27. February 1, 1850. (Hereafter "Day By Day.")

⁵³ *Goff*, p. 16.

⁵⁴ *Lincoln and His Wife's Home Town*, William H. Townsend, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1929, p. 226.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Lincoln house as did Catherine Gordon, an 18 year-old Irish-born maid who lived in the Lincoln home in 1850.⁵⁵

Abraham was forty-one years old and with domestic help now in place, he was free to pursue his legal career and generate income for his family. Shortly after hiring Maria, Abraham left Springfield to attend the spring term of the Tazewell Circuit Court in Tremont which opened on April 3.⁵⁶ For many days that year, he was on the circuit and away from home.

Mary was left home to deal with her grief over Eddie's death and her pregnancy. While Abraham was gone, Mary was in fact what we today call a single mom. Assisting her in running the household as well as acting as nursemaids and babysitters were at least two hired helpers—Maria Vance, her new African American maid, and Catherine Gordon, a young Irish lass who in 1850 lived in the house. This was indeed a tumultuous time for the Lincoln family.

In the fall of 1850, 7-year-old Robert Lincoln entered Abel Estabrook's Springfield Academy. Robert probably walked the 4 ½ blocks to and from the Springfield Academy on Fifth Street, and was probably joined on the walk by his friend George Latham who lived at the corner of Seventh and Capitol Streets.

During the 1851 and 1852 school terms, Abel continued his teaching career at the Springfield Academy. Robert Lincoln was his pupil and Robert's father, Abraham, studied Latin along with Robert—the two “declined nouns together.”⁵⁷ “It appears that at this time Robert was cross-eyed, a condition which was later corrected, but before it was,

⁵⁵ *Lincoln's Unknown Private Life, An Oral History By His Black Housekeeper Mariah Vance 1850-60*, Lloyd Ostendorf and Walter Oleksy, editors, Hasting House Book Publishing, Mamaroneck, New York, 1995, pp.69-70. *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln*, Michael Burlingame, University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, 1994, p. 275. *A Monument for One of the Lincolns Maids*, Lloyd Ostendorf, *Lincoln Herald* 66 (Winter 1964), pp. 184-186. *Mary Todd Lincoln A Biography*, Jean H. Baker, W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 1987, p, 107.

⁵⁶ *Day By Day*, p. 31. April 3, 1850.

⁵⁷ *Goff*, p. 17. *Autobiography of Robert T. Lincoln*, Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

his schoolmates bestowed upon him the uncomplimentary name of 'Cockeye.' One who knew him slightly had said that he had sight in only one eye, the other having been injured as a result of an imperfect operation in childhood."⁵⁸

From October 20th to the 28th, 1852, a musical convention was held at Springfield's First Presbyterian Church. Abel W. Estabrook was a member of the Committee for Arrangements.

Musical Convention,
AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLS.

A Musical Convention will be held in First Presbyterian Church, at Springfield, Illinois, commencing Wednesday, October 20, 1852.

The Session will continue six or eight days under the direction of A. N. JOHNSON, Professor of Music, Boston, who will deliver Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Music, as follows, viz:

Nine o'clock—Elementary Principles.
Ten o'clock—Cultivation of the voice, Pronunciation, &c.
Eleven o'clock—Church Music.
Two o'clock—Thorough Bass.
Three o'clock—Glee Singing.
Four o'clock—Church Music.
Seven o'clock—Chorus and Glee Singing.

The exercises of the Class will be similar to those of the Musical Conventions of Boston and New York; and no efforts will be spared to make it especially advantageous to those who may desire to avail themselves of its advantages.

Admission for the term—\$2 for each Gentleman—Ladies Free.

G. L. HUNTINGTON, A. W. ESTABROOK, M. GREENLEAF, A. H. LANPHEAR.	} Com. of Arrangements.
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The subject matter embraced in the above notice is of general interest to the citizens of this State, and on that account it is hoped that the editors of this State generally will copy it.

Abel W. Estabrook on Arrangements Committee
of Musical Convention⁵⁹

On April 13, 1853, Abel W. Estabrook purchased real estate on the west side of Fifth Street between Monroe and Capitol [Market] "being the same premises on which the Springfield Academy (so called) now stands."⁶⁰ He paid \$1,800 for the property. Abel now owned the Springfield Academy.

⁵⁸ Goff, p. 14. Randall, p. 155.

⁵⁹ Journal, August 23, 1852, p. 3, cl. 1.

⁶⁰ Lots 11 and 12 of Block 1 in the Elvira Edwards Addition to the City of Springfield. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book LL, p. 51. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

At the conclusion of the 1852-53 school year, Robert Todd Lincoln's education with Abel W. Estabrook as his teacher came to a close. In fall of 1853, Robert would attend the preparatory school of Springfield's Illinois State University.⁶¹

On September 12, 1853, Estabrook announced that he would open the "Sangamon Female Academy" and that he would be the principal. He taught Mental and Moral Philosophy and the Ancient Languages. In addition to Estabrook, Miss A. Kirk taught natural sciences, Mrs. Hill taught mathematics, Miss H. Thayer taught modern languages and Miss S. E. Benedict taught drawing. Miss R. Starley was the Principal of the Primary Department. Mr. A. H. Lanphear taught instrumental and vocal music. The Sangamon Female Academy was located in the Springfield Academy building.

Abel W. Estabrook Principal of Sangamon Female Academy⁶²

On Tuesday, April 4, 1854, William Henry Herndon, who had briefly been a student at Illinois College with Abel W. Estabrook, was elected Mayor of Springfield. He ran on a

⁶¹ *Prophet*, p. 45.

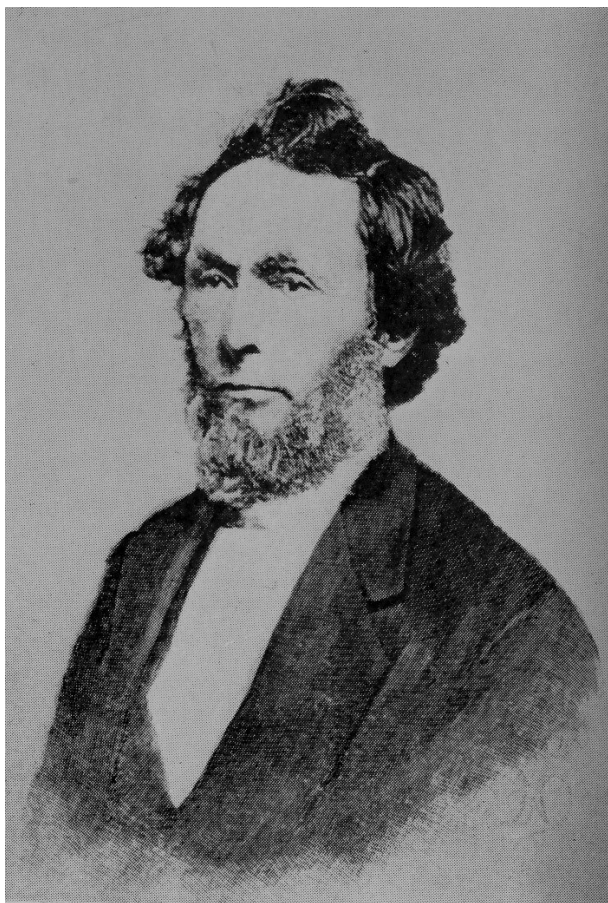
⁶² *Journal*, August 19, 1853, p. 3, cl. 1.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

reform agenda that included "laying the ground work for a public school system."⁶³

*He was elected on a reform agenda that attracted both Whigs and Democrats and undertook several needed initiatives, such as installing gas lines for lighting, expanding the police force by turning the mayor and aldermen into police officers, renting a new city hall, and laying the groundwork for a public school system.*⁶⁴



William Henry Herndon circa 1860

⁶³ *Day By Day*, p. 14.

⁶⁴ *The Young Eagle*, Kenneth J. Winkle, Taylor Trade Publishing, Dallas Texas, 2201, p. 290.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

*In long-range results the most important of Herndon's acts as mayor were his efforts to start a public school system. Billy fully understood the real need "that all the children in the city, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, may...receive a good, practical English education." It was a project in which he was especially interested, and he named himself chairman of the council's committee on education. Personally investigating the various sites suggested for the new public school buildings, Herndon supervised the expenditure of thousands of dollars to buy suitable lots in each of the city's four wards. Though the schools did not begin operation until later, the Springfield educational system owed much to Billy's forceful advocacy.*⁶⁵

On August 21, 1854, the Springfield public school system was divided into school districts coinciding with the boundaries of the four City Wards. Lots had been purchased in each ward for school purposes, and the initial steps taken for the erection of school buildings in the First and Third Wards. These building were completed in the spring of 1856.⁶⁶

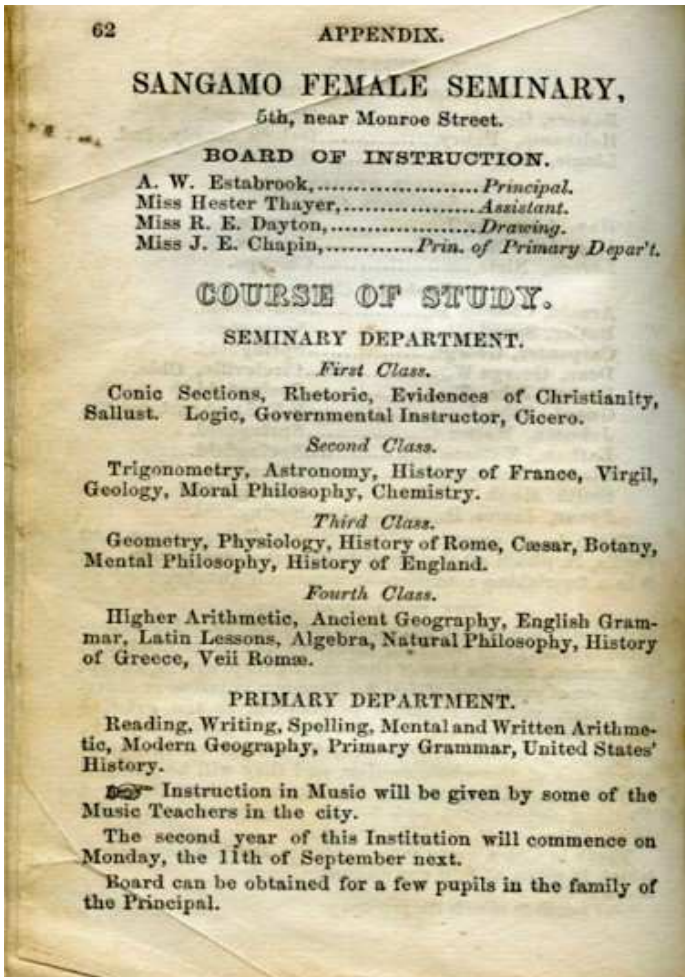
Estabrook's teaching career in Springfield continued and in the 1855-1856 *Springfield City Directory* he advertised that the second year of the Sangamo Female Seminary would begin on September 11, 1854, in the Academy Building on Fifth Street, near Monroe Street. He as principal announced that a few pupils could board at his residence. Miss Hester Thayer was the Assistant Principal. Miss R. E. Dayton taught drawing. Miss Jane E. Chapin was the Principal of the Primary Department. No tuition is stated. The course of study is described in the advertisement that follows.

⁶⁵ *Lincoln's Herndon*, pp. 68-69.

⁶⁶ *1881 History*, p. 587. Illinois Regional Archives Depository, Brookens Library, University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield, Illinois.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



1855-56 Springfield City Directory

Advertisement for Sangamo Female Seminary⁶⁷

The same *1855-1856 Springfield City Directory* lists Estabrook as living with G. Wood, a tailor at E. R. Wiley's, who lived on Eighth Street, near Market (Capitol).

On December 28, 1856, Abel W. Estabrook was elected Secretary of the Sangamon County Bible Society at its annual meeting held at the Third Presbyterian Church.

⁶⁷ *1855-56 Springfield City Directory*, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

Sangamon County Bible Society.

At the annual meeting of the Sangamon County Bible Society, held in the Third Presbyterian Church, on the 28th of December, 1856, the Report of the Secretary showed that there are organized in the county sixteen branch societies, all more or less actively engaged in the circulation of the sacred Scriptures. From the Treasurer's report there has been received into the treasury during the year \$1,481 37, and after deducting various expenditures and donations there is now in the treasury \$576 26.

The Depository's report shows that books to the amount of \$228 21 have been deposited with the branch societies; that there have been sold by the traveling agent, book to the amount of \$178 04, and at the Depository to the amount of \$381 85—and that there are now on hand, books to the amount of \$564 91.

The following were the officers chosen for the ensuing year:

President, Dr. JOHN TODD.

Vice Presidents, Revs. A. Hale, R. V. Dodge.

— Sears, S. S. Harkey, F. Springer, J. W. Pierson, A. Klippel, — Egelking.

Secretary, A. W. Estabrook.

Treasurer and Librarian, P. Canedy.

In addition to the above the following names were added to the board:

Thos. Lewis, Esq., and Dr C. B. Pelton, of the First Church; J. B. Conkling, and J. B. Weber of the Second; E. R. Wiley and J. Thayer, of the Third; J. Divilbiss, Lutheran; J. Coulell, Methodist, and A. Campbell, Episcopal.

The above named persons constitute a board of Directors for the transaction of business for the Society. The regular meetings of the board are on the first Tuesdays in January, April, July and October.

Abel W. Estabrook Secretary of Sangamon County Bible Society⁶⁸

⁶⁸ *Journal*, January 8, 1857, p. 2, cl. 1.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

In January 1857, Abel hosted Alexander Wilder,⁶⁹ a New York physician who drafted the charter of the Illinois Normal University. He stayed in Springfield until it became law. An account describing Wilder's visit describes Abel as "Professor Abel Wilder Estabrook, a prominent educator in that State."⁷⁰ Perhaps Alexander and Abel were related as, Abel's middle and his mother's maiden name was Wilder.



Alexander Wilder

⁶⁹ Alexander Wilder, a physician, was born in Verona, Oneida County, New York, on May 14, 1823. He attended the common schools, was self-educated in the higher branches, taught for some time, and was graduated in medicine at Syracuse in 1850. He was an editor of the Syracuse "Star" in 1852 and of the "Journal" in 1853, and took charge of the "New York Teacher" in 1856. In 1857 he went to Springfield, Illinois, where he prepared the bill to incorporate the State normal university. Removing to New York city, he became connected in 1858 with the "Evening Post," on whose staff he remained for thirteen years. In 1871 he was elected an alderman of New York on the anti-Tweed ticket. He was president of the Eclectic medical society of New York in 1870-'1, of whose "Transactions" he edited two volumes (Albany, 1870-'1), and became secretary of the National association. In 1873-'7 he was professor of physiology in the Eclectic medical college of the city of New York, and from 1878 till 1883 he held successively the chairs of physiology and psychological science in the United States medical college. Dr. Wilder was a member of the American Akademie, a philosophical society, and editor of its "Journal." He published many monographs, including "The Inter-marriage of Kindred" (New York, 1870); "Plea for the Collegiate Education of Women" (1874); "Vaccination a Medical Fallacy" (1878); "Paul and Plato" (St. Louis, 1881); "Life Eternal" (Orange, New Jersey, 1885); and "The Ganglionic Nervous System" (1887). He edited essays on "Ancient Symbol-Worship" (New York, 1873); Thomas Taylor's "Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries" (1875); Richard Payne Knight's "Symbolical Language of Ancient Art and Mythology" (1876); and "India: what can it Teach us." by Max Muller (1883); and translated Iamblichus's work on "The Mysteries of the Egyptians, Assyrians, and Chaldaeans," in "The Platonist." Edited Appletons Encyclopedia, Copyright © 2001 Virtualology.
<http://famousamericans.net/alexanderwilder/>

⁷⁰ *Book of The Wilders: A contribution to the History of The Wilders From 1497, in England, to the Emigration of Martha, a Widow*, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alexander_Wilder.001.jpg

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

At the end of the 1856-57 school year, 43-year-old Abel apparently decided to stop teaching and begin a new career as a merchant. On July 17, 1857, he sold the Springfield Academy building on Fifth Street to Joseph Thayer.

By November of 1858, Estabrook was no longer teaching and had opened a "Furniture Emporium" on the north side of Washington Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The advertisement for his store lists "Sofas and Tete-a-Tetes Cheap" and "School Room Furniture." One wonders if the school furniture was from the Springfield Academy. The *1859 Springfield City Directory* reported that Abel was a furniture dealer and that he resided on the east side of Fifth Street, between Canedy and Wright (Lawrence).⁷¹

A. W. Estabrook's
FURNITURE EMPORIUM.
SOFAS AND TETE-A-TETES, CHEAP.
Cheap for cash at Estabrook's, 5 doors east of the Chenery House.
MAHOGANY, PAINTED, and ENAMELLED CHAMBER SETS,
Cheap for cash at Estabrook's, 5 doors east of the Chenery House.
MARBLE AND MAHOGANY TOP CENTRE TABLES, BUREAUS AND WASHSTANDS,
Cheap for cash at Estabrook's, 5 doors east of the Chenery House.
MAHOGANY, DINING ROOM, RECEPTION, CANE SEAT, and WINDSOR CHAIRS,
Cheap for cash at Estabrook's, 5 doors east of the Chenery House.
WARDROBES, DRESSING BUREAUS, CUPBOARDS, and SAVED,
Cheap for cash at Estabrook's, 5 doors east of the Chenery House.
FRENCH COTTAGE AND COMMON BEDSTEADS,
Cheap for cash at Estabrook's, 5 doors east of the Chenery House.
EXTENSION, DINING AND BREAKFAST TABLES,
Cheap for cash at Estabrook's, 5 doors east of the Chenery House.
SCHOOL ROOM FURNITURE
for sale cheap for cash at Estabrook's, 5 doors east of the Chenery House. We would call the attention of school directors especially to this class of furniture.
Furniture of all kinds for sale cheap for cash at
ESTABROOK'S,
nov12-dawidec21 5 doors east of the Chenery House.

Abel W. Estabrook Opens Furniture Emporium⁷²

⁷¹ Buck & Kreigh's *City Directory, For the Year 1859, Springfield, Illinois*, B. A. Richards & Co.'s Job Office, 1859, p. 40.

⁷² *Journal*, November 12, 1858, p. 2, cl. 4.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

On April 22, 1859, Abel W. Estabrook was one of the Springfield School Board members attending a special meeting of the School Board. The Board authorized the hiring of a teacher of vocal music for the coming year and Abel W. Estabrook was given that job.

Meeting of the School Board.

A special meeting of the School Board was held yesterday afternoon. Present, Messrs. Wm. Jayne, L. P. Clover, N. W. Miner, J. S. Bradford, A. W. Estabrook, F. Springer, N. W. Matheny.

An motion of J. S. Bradford, Dr. William Jayne was elected President of the Board for the ensuing year.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Miner, it was resolved to provide a teacher of vocal music for the Public School.

On motion of Rev. Francis Springer, it was voted to request Mr. A. W. Estabrook to give instruction in vocal music for the remainder of the present school year.

On motion of Mr. J. S. Bradford, a committee of three was appointed to confer with the City Council in regard to the establishment of a Central High School.

Messrs. Bradford, Matheny and Springer were appointed as such committee.

On motion adjourned. Wm. Jayne,

S. M. Cutherton, Sec.

Pres.

Abel W. Estabrook Attends School Board Meeting
and Engaged to Teach Vocal Music⁷³

⁷³ *Journal*, April 23, 1859, p. 3, cl. 1.

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Three days later, on April 25, 1859, the *Journal* reported that Abel W. Estabrook, "an old and reliable citizen," had opened an insurance agency in partnership with A. O. Brooks.

INSURANCE.—In these days of financial embarrassment, it becomes a matter of duty for every individual to economize, and live within his means. No one can be successful without adhering to this established fact. If fortune has favored one with a home, with houses and goods, and by some unforeseen event they take fire and are destroyed, rendering such homeless and penniless, the community have but little sympathy, and attach blame upon the parties, for not, in these days of progress, having their property insured. Such protection against misfortune costs but little, and places something in the power of one to depend on in case of losses. There are several agencies in this city representing good and responsible companies—known to be such by their promptness and liberality. Among them is the QUAKER CITY, and Phoenix, of Chicago, which we believe among the best companies in the Union, and is represented by A. W. ESTABROOK, an old and reliable citizen. Mr. A. O. Brooks, soliciting agent for these companies, is a partner of Mr. Estabrook, and is a gentleman in whom our citizens can place the greatest confidence. He is now canvassing our city, on this business, and we hope will be favorably received.

Abel W. Estabrook Opens Insurance Agency⁷⁴

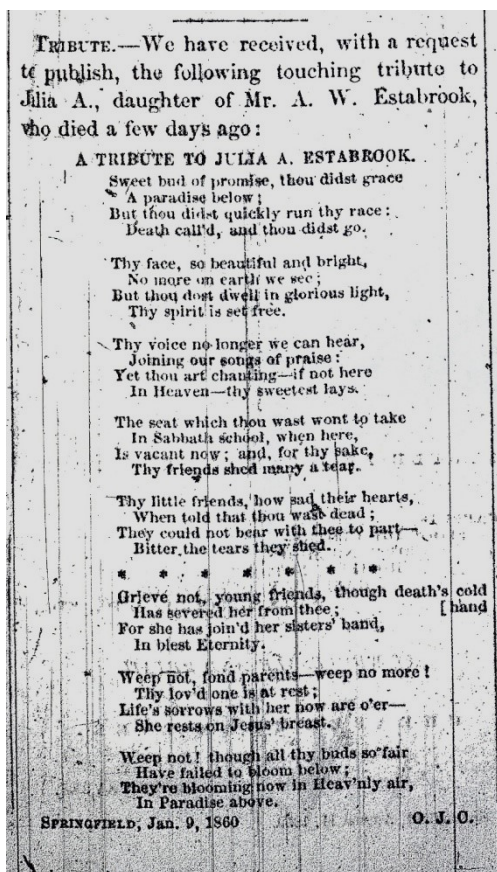
On Christmas, December 25, 1859, tragedy struck the home of Abel and Laura Estabrook when their six-year-old daughter, Julia A., died. She was then their only child.⁷⁵ The following poem published in the *Journal* may have been written by her grandfather Oliver B. Culver.

⁷⁴ *Journal*, April 25, 1859, p. 3, cl. 1.

⁷⁵ *Journal*, January 2, 1860, p. 2.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



Tribute to Julia A. Estabrook⁷⁶

By early January 1860, 44-year-old Abel was a dealer in furniture and chairs with a store on the north side of Washington between 4th and 5th Streets. He was living at 163 South Fourth Street, the northeast corner of Canedy and Fourth Streets.⁷⁷ He owned real estate worth \$8,000 and personal property worth \$4,000. Living with him was his 32-

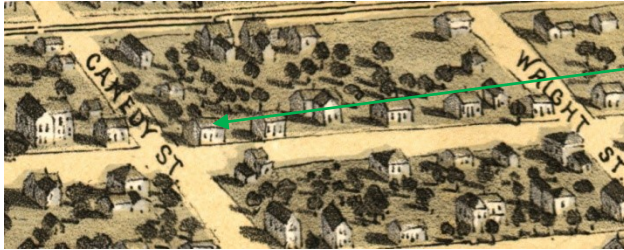
⁷⁶ *Journal*, January 12, 1860, p. 3, cl. 2.

⁷⁷ 1860 *Springfield City Directory*. *Illinois state business directory, 1860: in which the mercantile, professional, manufacturing and mechanical departments, are accurately compiled and alphabetically arranged under their respective headings; also, information respecting banks, insurance companies, railroads and other institutions*, 1860, Smith & DuMoulin; Montague T. Platt, Chicago, J.C.W. Bailey & Co.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

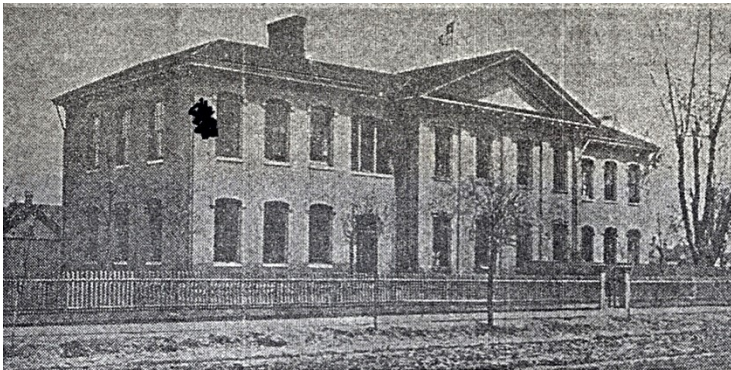
Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

year-old wife Laura, Mary Vleet, and a fifteen-year-old servant girl or domestic, who had been born in Ohio. Boarding with the Estabrooks was Sullivan Cutcheon, the superintendent of Springfield Public Schools.⁷⁸



Abel W. Estabrook
Residence at 163 S.
4th Street

On June 20, 1860, the *Journal* reported that the School Board had named Abel W. Estabrook as Principal of the First Ward School. The First Ward School, pictured below, opened on April 14, 1856. It was located on East Mason, between 12th and 13th Streets. It was two stories, the lower with four rooms and the upper including a large hall, two recitation rooms and two smaller rooms. It was later known as the Palmer School.



First Ward School: Later Known as Palmer School

⁷⁸ 1860 census, p. 106.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Public Schools.
OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD,
SPRINGFIELD, JUNE 19, 1860.

A special meeting of the School Board, was held to-day, all the members being present.

The committee on examination of teachers having reported, the Board proceeded to the election of teachers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

Francis Springer, Superintendent.

First Ward School—A. W. Estabrook, Principal. Anna G. Roberts, Francis Cassatt, F. L. Babcock, Nora J. O'Leary, Fliza McManus.

Second Ward School—E. L. Clark, Principal. Mary J. Jennings, Martha K. Noyes, Margaretto Morris, Mary E. Lewis.

Third Ward School—W. Burgett, Principal. Mary P. Barrows, Jane E. Chapin, Anna McCrillis, Mary E. Hughes, Amelia Wiley.

Fourth Ward School—A. M. Brooks, Principal. A. M. Eastman, S. F. Bennett, S. J. Higby, Jane A. Roberts, Fanny Wiley.

Central High School—George M. Tourtellot, Principal. Sophie Chapin, Sarah P. White.

Colored School—Thomas York.

The following committees were appointed for the annual examinations to take place next week.

First Ward.—P. P. Enos, Chairman. Rev. Francis Springer, Rev. B. C. Suesscroft, E. B. Hawley, R. J. Coats.

Second Ward.—G. A. Sutton, Chairman.—Wm. Jayne, M.D., Rev. A. J. Kane, Wm. H. Herndon, Z. Enos.

Third Ward.—Rev. L. P. Clover, Chairman. N. W. Matheny, W. H. Bailhache, Rev. J. F. Brooks, S. B. Moody.

Fourth Ward.—Rev. N. W. Miner, Chairman. Rev. J. H. Brown, C. S. Shelton, M.D., I. S. Britton, A. M. Gregory.

Central High School.—J. S. Bradford, Chairman. Rev. Albert Hale, C. H. Lanphier, Rev. James Leaton, Alex. Pollock, M.D.

On motion, it was voted to extend the summer vacation to September 10th.

A committee was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the Board in regard to those ladies who declined a re-election as teachers.

The Superintendent was instructed to publish two hundred copies of his Annual Report which is now ready for publication.

G. A. SUTTON, President.
S. M. CUTCHEN, Secy.

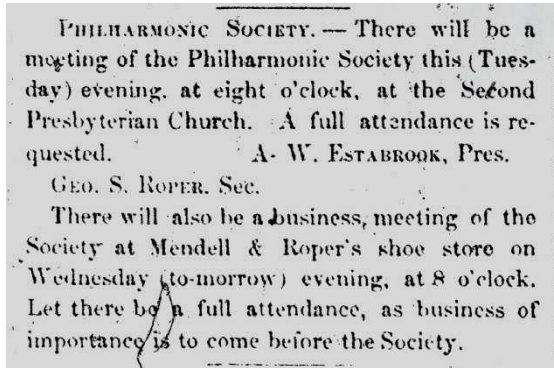
Abel W. Estabrook Named Principal of First Ward School⁷⁹

On June 26, 1860, Abel W. Estabrook, as President of the Philharmonic Society, announced in the *Journal* that a meeting of the Society would be held at the Second Presbyterian Church.

⁷⁹ *Journal*, June 20, 1860, p. 3, cl. 3.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



Abel W. Estabrook President of Philharmonic Society⁸⁰

In 1861, Abel and Laura had a son, Howard W.

The *1863 Springfield City Directory* lists Abel as a school teacher residing at 163 S. Fourth.⁸¹

Abel W. Estabrook's photograph shown on the cover was taken by Christopher Smith German sometime between January 1, 1863 and August 1, 1864.

In 1864, Abel and Laura had a second son, Henry. The *1864 Springfield City Directory* lists Abel as a school teacher living near Judge Stephen T. Logan in the "north part of the city."⁸²

In 1872, Abel and Laura had a third son, George H.

Just as little is known of Abel's early childhood, little is known of his later years. The *1880 United States Census* lists him as a 64 year-old farmer living in Rosamond, Christian County, Illinois with his wife, Laura, and growing fruit.⁸³

⁸⁰ *Journal*, June 26, 1860, p. 3, cl. 2.

⁸¹ *Campbell & Richardson's Springfield City Directory and Business Mirror for 1863*, Johnson & Bradford, Booksellers and Printers, West Side of the Public Square, 1863, Preface dated February 17, 1863, p. 71.

⁸² *Springfield City Directory and Business Mirror for 1864*, Compiled by Julius Babeuf, Springfield, Johnson & Bradford, Booksellers and Printers, West Side of Public Square, 1864, p. 131.

⁸³ *Estabrook Genealogy*, p. 493.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

The following year, Laura S. Estabrook, Abel's wife, died on December 28, 1881, at age 53.⁸⁴

The *1894 Springfield City Directory* lists Abel W. Estabrook as retired and living at 824 North 8th Street. His 22-year-old son, George H., was living with him.⁸⁵

The *1896 Springfield City Directory* lists Abel W. Estabrook as living at 824 North 8th Street. Abel's son, George H., was living with him. Another son, Howard W. was residing at 439 North Fifth Street.⁸⁶



Residence of Abel W. Estabrook at 824 North 8th Street⁸⁷

The *1900 United States Census* for Ward 4, Elgin, Illinois lists 85 year-old Abel W. Estabrook living with his son, Howard.

Abel W. Estabrook died on January 13, 1905.

⁸⁴ *Journal*, December 29, 1881, p. 6.

⁸⁵ *Springfield City Directory 1894*, The Springfield Directory Company, Springfield, Illinois, p. 172.

⁸⁶ *Springfield City Directory 1896*, The Springfield Directory Company, Springfield, Illinois, p. 137.

⁸⁷ I took this photograph in July 2009. The house has been updated since the time when Abel lived here, but it is surprising that it is still standing and is in such a good state of repair.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

ESTABROOK FAMILY GENEALOGY

Joseph Estabrook ————— Mary Mason
(1640-1711) (1640-____)
Came to America from Enfield, Middlesex, England, in 1660.
Harvard graduate 1664
Minister at Concord, Massachusetts

Samuel Estabrook ————— Rebecca Hobert
(1674-1727) (____-1727)
Library with 200 books.
Harvard graduate 1696

Nehemiah Estabrook ————— Abigail Porter
(1715-1787) (____-1770)
Went to Lebanon, New Hampshire

Nehemiah Estabrook ————— Elizabeth Slapp
(1749-1826) (____-1824)
Fought in Revolutionary War

Heraldus Estabrook ————— Abigail Wilder
(1785-1846) (1789-1883)

Abel W. Estabrook ————— Laura Culver
(1815-1905) (1828- 1881)

Julia A., born in 1853
Henry, born in 1861
Howard W., born in 1864
George H., born in 1872

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

The following biographical information on the family of Abel W. Estabrook was taken from *Genealogy of the Estabrook Family, including the Esterbrook and Easterbrooks in the United States*.⁸⁸

FIRST GENERATION.

Joseph Estabrook, born about 1640 at Enfield, Middlesex, England, came to this country in 1660, after receiving a preparatory education for college. He entered Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1664.

Three years afterward he was ordained as colleague of the Rev. Edward Bulkeley, minister of the church in Concord, Mass., and on Mr. Bulkeley's death, 1696, became pastor of the church, continuing in that office until his death, Sept. 16, 1711, at the age of 71 years, when he was succeeded by John Whiting, (H. C., 1661). He was made a freeman at Cambridge, Mass., May 3, 1665. May 20, 1668, he married at Watertown, Mass., Mary, daughter of Capt. Hugh and Esther Mason, of that place. She was born Dec. 18, 1640.

He was a man eminently fitted for his office. In his preaching he was plain, practical and persuasive. In his intercourse with the people, grave, affectionate, communicative and solitary, earnestly desiring their happiness and religious welfare. His appearance carried with it so much patriotic dignity that people were induced to love him as a friend and reverence him as a father. These distinguished traits in his character obtained for him in the latter part of his life the name of "The Apostle." His judgment was highly esteemed, and his advice was sought for in all the neighboring churches. He was much admired wherever he preached and was invited to remove from Concord." For," said his admirers, "he was too bright a star to be muffled up in the woods amongst the Indians, and ought to come to Boston where he could do more good." His only printed work which has come down to us is an Election Sermon preached in 1705. It is entitled "Abraham the preacher, his privilege and duty; described in Election Sermon at Boston, N. E., May 30, 1705, by Joseph Estabrook, A.M., and pastor of the church at Concord." Shattuck's History of Concord, Sibley's Harvard Col. Graduates.

His salary at Concord was £80, of which £40 was to be paid in money, and £40 in grain—wheat to be estimated at 5s., rye at 4s., and corn at 3s. per bushel. March 12, 1681, the town voted "that every householder that hath a team, shall carry yearly one load of wood to the minister; and every other householder or votable person shall cut wood one day for the minister; and that the wood be equally divided to the ministers as the selectmen shall appoint."

Of his death, the *Boston News Letter* of Sept. 18, 1711, says: "This day was interred in Concord the Rev. Joseph Estabrook, minister of the gospel in said town for about 44 years (and for many of them was colleague of the famous Mr. Bulkeley). He was eminent for his skill in the Hebrew language, and a most orthodox, learned and worthy divine; of excellent principles in religion, indefatigably laborous in the ministry, and of holy life and conversation."

⁸⁸ *Genealogy of the Estabrook Family, including the Esterbrook and Easterbrooks in the United States*, William B. Estabrook, Ithaca, New York, Andrus & Church, 1891.

http://books.google.com/books?id=gkwGA_qNqCIC&dq=Abel+W.+Estabrook&q=abel+w.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

SECOND GENERATION.

Samuel, born at Concord, Mass., June 7th, 1674; was graduated at Harvard College in 1696.

He taught the Grammar School in Concord from 1706 to 1710, at the same time "assisting his father in the work of the ministry." He was ordained, June 13th, 1711, as first pastor of the church at Canterbury, Conn., where he settled as a clergyman until his death, June 26th, 1727. He married March 23, 1713-4, Rebecca, daughter of Rev. Nehemiah and Sarah (Jackson) Hobart, of Newton, Mass.; she was a grand-daughter of Rev. Peter Hobart, of Hingham, Mass. She died in Dec., 1727, six months after his death. He was a man of wisdom and learning and much respected throughout the colony.

May 8, 1718, he preached the annual election sermon to the Legislature, text, I Tim., n, 2. In 1709, Canterbury raised £1,619, and with and out of this aid a house for the minister was built, and in 1711 the town received liberty from the Assembly "to gather a church and call a minister to office amongst them, according to the rules of the gospel and the order of discipline established by this government." The church was constituted June 13, 1711. He had been there some years preaching before that time. The election sermon was printed in 1718 by Timothy Green, printer to his Honor the Governor and Council, at New London.

He left land with buildings valued at £1,000, a library of over two hundred volumes, comprising many elaborate Latin works, and a bountiful supply of household furniture and wearing apparel. By his will, his son Nehemiah was bequeathed "the housing and estate." Hobart was "to be brought up to College," and to have "fifty pounds and ye books and papers." To his daughter Mary was left "twenty pounds and the movable goods."

He and she are buried at Canterbury, Conn., and upon his stone is the following: "Ye Reverend and Pious and Learned Mr. Samuel Estabrook, ye 3rd son of ye Reverend Mr. Joseph Estabrook, late pastor of ye church in Concord, who was ye first pastor of ye church in Canterbury, who departed this life to ye everlasting mercy of God, June 23rd, 1727, in the 53rd year of his age."

The following is an inventory of his wife's wearing apparel: Three black crape gowns and petticoats; one silk stuff gown and petticoat; one silk poplin gown and petticoat; one silk crape gown; one white flannel wrought petticoat; one linen and woolen (home) gown and petticoat; two new camblet riding hoods; one serge riding hood; one gauze hood; one black silk hood; two bonnets; one silk scarf; one pair stays; one headdress; eleven night caps; fourteen linen aprons; three linen and woolen aprons; two calico aprons; two checkered aprons; nine speckled handkerchiefs; nine pairs gloves; two fans; four waist ribbons; amber beads; four pairs stockings; two pairs shoes.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

THIRD GENERATION.

CHILDREN OF REV. SAMUEL AND REBECCA (*Hobart*) ESTABROOK

Nehemiah, born at Canterbury, Conn., April 1, 1715. He resided for a time in Mansfield, Conn., where he united with the Congregational Church, in Aug. 1735, and about 1768 went to Lebanon, N. H. He owned and lived on a place about a mile north of Mansfield Center, Ct. He was a prominent man in all public affairs, deacon of first church at Mansfield, etc. He married, first, Sept. 2, 1736, at Mansfield Center, Bethiah, daughter of Robert Paddock, who died June 2, 1743; he married, second, October 18, 1744, Abigail Porter, daughter of Deacon Experience Porter, who died Dec. 7, 1770, at Mansfield; he married, third, Sept. 23, 1773, Anna Bliss of Springfield, Mass., who died at Lebanon, N. H., Jan. 16, 1778, in her seventy-fifth year; he died at Lebanon, N. H., Feb. 10, 1787.

FOURTH GENERATION.

CHILDREN OF NEHEMIAH AND ABIGAIL (*Porter*) ESTABROOK

Nehemiah, born at Mansfield Center, Conn, on Aug. 27, 1749; married Nov. 22, 1771, Elizabeth, daughter of Major John Slapp of Lebanon, N. H. Nehemiah, hearing of the battle of Lexington in the afternoon, by the sleepless energy of his wife, was ready at sunrise the next morning, to take leave of home and family, and shoulder his musket in defense of his country. He was nearly all the time under the immediate command of Washington, being one of his famous body-guard. He returned poor, having received continental money for his pay, \$50 of which he paid for a breakfast on his way home. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war; was in retreat with Washington, when he planted a battery after crossing the Delaware river, and getting behind the hill to hide from his enemies—by a curve in the road—they mowed down the Hessians like grass, who attempted to cross the same bridge in hot pursuit. He said this was the only time he saw Washing laugh during the entire seven years. The records show that he enlisted Sept. 22, and was discharged Oct. 24, 1774. In the battle of Saratoga—1777—he was in Col. Chase's regiment, and was discharged June 11, 1777, as sergeant. At the time the British captured Buffalo, twenty miles west of Alden, where he lived during the war of 1812, he got out his sword, ground off the rust, and determined to enlist again in defense of the flag under which he had fought for seven long years; he was finally dissuaded. He sold a farm when he went to Holland Purchase, in western New York in 1810, and took continental money and by the time he was ready to reinvest, the money was worthless. He died at Alden, N. Y., in 1826. His wife died there in 1824.

FIFTH GENERATION.

CHILDREN OF NEHEMIAH AND ELIZABETH (*Slapp*) ESTABROOK

Hareldus [Heraldus], born at Lebanon, New Hampshire, on June, 1785. Went to Canada in early married life. He married Abigail, daughter of Abel Wilder, of Montpelier, Vt., in 1815. She was born May 5, 1789. In 1833 moved to Sangamon Co., Ill., eight miles from Springfield, with a colony of Canadians. He was a carpenter. He died Aug. 4, 1846. Abigail lived with her daughter, Mary S., after her husband's death, till she died in July 1883. Both buried in Farmingdale, Sangamon Co., Ill.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Robert Todd Lincoln's Education Chronology

August 1, 1843	Birth of Robert Todd Lincoln
October 25, 1847 (age 4)	Living in Washington, D. C. and Lexington, Kentucky
To October 10, 1848	
October 10, 1848 (age 5)	
To May 1849	Living at Globe Tavern, Springfield
October 18, 1849 (age 6)	
To November 13, 1849	Visiting Todds in Lexington, Kentucky
Fall 1849 (age 6)	Slipper School
Spring 1850	Visiting Todds in Lexington, Kentucky
Fall 1850 (age 7)	
To Spring 1851	Abel W. Estabrook, Springfield Academy
Fall 1851 (age 8)	
To Spring 1852	Abel W. Estabrook, Springfield Academy
Fall 1852 (age 9)	
To Spring 1853	Abel W. Estabrook, Springfield Academy
Fall 1853 (age 10) Prep	Illinois State University
Fall 1854 (age 11) Prep	Illinois State University
Fall 1855 (age 12) Freshman	Illinois State University
Fall 1856 (age 13) Sophomore	Illinois State University
Fall 1857 (age 14) Junior	Illinois State University
Fall 1858 (age 15) Senior	
To Spring 1859	Illinois State University
September 15, 1859 (age 16)	
to Spring-1860	Phillips Exeter Academy
Fall 1860-July 1864	Harvard
1864-1865	Harvard Law (dropped out after 4 months)

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Sangamon County Signers of the Lovejoy Handbill

Alton Observer

Extra

Alton, September 28, 1837

STATE CONVENTION.⁸⁹

Jacksonville

[Abel was a student in Jacksonville, but his residence was at Farmington.]

A[bel] W. Estabrook

Springfield

Erastus Wright

Z. Hallock

E[liphalet] B. Hawley

Roswell P. Abel

S[ullivan] Conant

W[illiam] M. Cowgill

Isaac Bancroft, Jr.

J[onathan] C. Bancroft

E[rastus] W. Thayer

Oliver B. Culver

J[ohn] B. Watson

J[ames] Stephenson

C[harles] B. Francis

J. G. Rawson

Joseph Taney

Edmund R. Wiley

James Pratt

Elisha Taber

George N. Kendall

Josiah Francis

Farmington,

Sangamon County

Peter Bates

Asahel Stone

Azel Lyman

H[enry] P. Lyman

Heraldus Estabrook

Jay Slater

Oliver Bates

Stephen Child

B. B. More

Bishop Seely

O[ssian] L. Stone

A. S. Lyman

Joel Buckman

John Lyman

T[homas] Galt

Chatham,

Sangamon County

L[uther] N. Ransom

Josiah Porter

H. T. White

Cornelius Lyman

A[lan] Stockwell

⁸⁹ The list printed here is taken from *Printer's Error in Call For Antislavery Convention*, Historical Notes, Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Volume XLVII, Number 3, Autumn 1954, pp. 321-323. The original printed handbill contained errors which have been noted and corrected by the foregoing article. The petition was read into the minutes of the "Proceedings of a Convention of Delegates favorable to the immediate abolition of Slavery in the United States, assembled from various parts of the state of Illinois, at Upper Alton, in the county of Madison, on Friday, the 27th day of October, 1837."

<http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu/cgi-bin/philologic/getobject.pl?c.135:l.lincoln>

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Index

Allen

Robert
Springfield Academy
trustee-March 1, 1839.....19

Anti-Slavery

Illinois Society
call for organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 1837
Elijah P. Lovejoy calls
for11
signers of call for
organizational convention
at Upper Alton-September
27, 1837

Bates, Oliver48
Bates, Peter48
Buckman, Joel.....48
Child, Stephen.....48
Culver, Oliver B.....48
Estabrook, Abel W.48
Estabrook, Heraldus ...48
Galt, Thomas.....48
Lyman, A. S.48
Lyman, Azel.....48
Lyman, Cornelius.....48
Lyman, Henry P.....48
Lyman, John.....48
Porter, Josiah.....48
Ransom, Luther N.48
Seely, Bhisop48
Slater, Jay.....48
Stockwell, Alanson48
Stone, Asahel48
Stone, Ossian L.48
White, H. T.48

signs call for organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 1837

Abel W. Estabrook.....13

Bates

Oliver
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837.....48

Peter

signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837.....48

Beecher

Edward
becomes abolitionist-1835.. 9
first President of Illinois
College..... 9

Buckman

Joel
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837 48

Chapin

Jane E.
Sangamo Female Seminary
principal of primary
department-September 11,
1855..... 31

Child

Stephen
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837 48

Culver

Laura W.
marries Abel W. Estabrook-
April 23, 1846..... 18
Oliver B.
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837 48

Dayton

R. E., Miss
Sangamo Female Seminary
drawing teacher-September
11, 1855 31

Estabrook

Abel W.
attends Illinois College-
1839-1842..... 15
born in Vermont-October 8,
1815 4
death-January 13, 1905 42
directs choir at Washington
Temperance Society
meeting-April 11, 1843.. 17
elected Secretary of Illinois
State Musical Society-
August 14, 1841 15

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Index

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>elected Secretary of
 Sangamon County Bible
 Society-December 28, 1856 32</p> <p>enrolls in Preparatory
 Department of Illinois
 College-Fall 1846.....8</p> <p>hosts Alexander Wilder-
 January 185734</p> <p>marries Laura W. Culver-
 April 23, 184618</p> <p>moves to Springfield as
 teacher-August 26, 1842.16</p> <p>opens furniture store-
 November 1858.....35</p> <p>opens insurance agency in
 partnership with A. O.
 Brooks-April 1859.....37</p> <p>photograph taken by
 Chirstopher Smith German-
 Circa 186341</p> <p>President of Philharmonic
 Society-June 26, 186040</p> <p>principal of
 Sangamo Female
 Seminary at the
 Academy Building-
 September 12, 1853 .29</p> <p>principal of First Ward
 School-June 20, 186039</p> <p>receives A. M. degree from
 Illinois College-July 11,
 1850.....23</p> <p>Sangamo Female Seminary's
 second year-September 11,
 1855.....31</p> <p>serves on Committee for
 Arrangements for musical
 convention-October 185228</p> <p>signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 1837..13, 48</p> <p>Springfield School Board
 hires to teach vocal music-
 April 185936</p> <p>Springfield School Board
 member-April 185936</p> <p>takes Springfield Academy
 to teach young men-
 November 23, 184722</p> | <p>teaches Robert Todd
 Lincoln-fall 1850-spring
 1853 23</p> <p>Abigail
 mother of Abel W.-October
 8, 1815 4</p> <p>George H.
 son of Abel W. born-1872 41</p> <p>Henry
 son of Abel W. born-1864 41</p> <p>Heraldus
 birth-June 30, 1785 4
 father of Abel W.-October 8,
 1815..... 4</p> <p>signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 1837 48</p> <p>Howard W.
 son of Abel W. born-1861 41</p> <p>Joseph
 first Estabrook in America43</p> <p>Julia A.
 death-December 25, 1859,
 Springfield, Sangamon
 County, Illinois 37</p> <p>Laura S.
 death-December 28, 1881 42</p> <p>Nehemiah
 Lebanon, New Hampshire 43
 Revolutionary War veteran
 43</p> <p>Samuel
 library with 200 books 43</p> <p>Farmington Presbyterian
 Church
 organizers-January 1834</p> <p> Bates, Charity..... 6</p> <p> Bates, Oliver 6</p> <p> Childs, Hannah..... 6</p> <p> Childs, Stephen 6</p> <p> Colton, Chancy D..... 6</p> <p> Esterbrook, Abel 6</p> <p> Esterbrook, Abigal 6</p> <p> Esterbrook, Heraldus..... 6</p> <p> Lyman, Alvin 6</p> <p> Lyman, Azel..... 6</p> <p> Lyman, Ezra..... 6</p> <p> Lyman, Henry P. 6</p> <p> Lyman, Lucy 6</p> <p> Lyman, Mary L. 6</p> <p> Lyman, Mary P. 6</p> |
|---|---|

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Index

- Lyman, Mercy6
 Lyman, Roxana.....6
 Lyman, William Robb6
 Ransom, Amanda6
 Ransom, Zerviah.....6
 Robb, Elizabeth W.....6
 Robb, Mary.....6
 Robb, Phebe.....6
 Slater, Jay6
 Stone, Azabel.....6
 Stone, Francis L.....6
 Stone, Laura.....6
 Stone, Laura A.....6
- Galt**
 Thomas
 signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 183748
- Hes**
 Washington
 Springfield Academy
 trustee-March 1, 1839.....19
- Illinois College**
 Abel W. Estabrook attends-
 1839-184215
- Illinois State Musical Society**
 Abel W. Estabrook elected
 Secretary-August 14, 1841
15
- Lincoln**
 Robert Todd
 taught by Abel W.
 Estabrook-fall 1850-spring
 1853.....23
- Logan**
 Stephen T.
 Springfield Academy
 trustee-March 1, 1839.....19
- Lovejoy**
 Elijah P.
 calls for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 183711
- Lyman**
 A. S.
 signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 183748
 Azel
 explores Sangamon County-
 1832 5
 signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 1837 48
 Cornelius
 signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 1837 48
 Henry P.
 signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 1837 48
 John
 signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 1837 48
 John R.
 explores Sangamon County-
 1832 5
- Lyman Colony**
Sangamo Journal reports on
 arrival in Springfield from
 Potsdam, New York-
 October 1833 6
- Matheny**
 Charles R.
 Springfield Academy
 trustee-March 1, 1839 19
- Porter**
 Josiah
 signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 1837 48
- Rague**
 John F.
 Springfield Academy
 trustee-March 1, 1839 19
- Ransom**
 Luther N.
 signs call for Anti-Slavery
 Society organizational
 convention at Upper Alton-
 September 27, 1837 48

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Index

Ridgely

Nicholas H.
Springfield Academy
trustee-March 1, 1839.....19

Sangamo Female Seminary

Abel W. Estabrook principal
at the Academy Building-
September 12, 1853.....29
second year-September 11,
1855.....31

Seely

Bishop
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837.....48

Sill

S. M.
teacher at Springfield
Academy-September 28,
1839.....20

Slater

Jay
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837.....48

Springfield Academy

Abel W. Estabrook takes and
opens to teach young men-
November 23, 1847.....22

Allen, Robert
trustee of-March 1, 1839...19

Iles, Washington
trustee of-March 1, 1839...19

Logan, Stephen T.
trustee of-March 1, 1839...19

Matheny, Charles R.
trustee of-March 1, 1839...19

Rague, John F.
trustee of-March 1, 1839...19

Ridgely, Nicholas H.
trustee of-March 1, 1839...19

Webster, F., Jr.
trustee of-March 1, 1839.. 19

Stockwell

Alanson
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837 48

Stone

Asahel
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837 48

Ossian L.
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837 48

Thayer

Hester A., Miss
Sangamo Female Seminary
assistant principal-
September 11, 1855 31

Washington Temperance

Society
Abel W. Estabrook directs
signing at meeting of-April
11, 1843 17

Webster

F., Jr.
Springfield Academy
trustee-March 1, 1839 19

White

H. T.
signs call for Anti-Slavery
Society organizational
convention at Upper Alton-
September 27, 1837 48

Wilder

Abigail
birth-May 5, 1789-Vermont4

RICHARD E. HART

Richard E. Hart was born in Ottawa, Illinois, and attended school and was raised in Springfield. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he received his B.A. in 1964 and his J.D. in 1967. He was admitted to practice law in 1967 and has been a practicing attorney in Springfield for the last forty-eight years. He is a partner in the firm of Hart, Southworth & Witsman. Hart is married to Ann and they have three children and six grandchildren.

Hart is a past President of The Abraham Lincoln Association and member of the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He is a past President and board member of the Sangamon County Historical Society, past Chairman of the Advisory Board of The Lincoln Legal Papers, and past President and member of the Board of Directors of the Elijah Iles House Foundation. Hart was largely responsible for raising the funds and managing the day-to-day restoration of the Elijah Iles House and the Strawbridge-Shepherd House, two ca. 1840 Greek Revival residences.

Hart is also past President of Springfield Preservation, Ltd., a for-profit corporation that has restored and leased five Lincoln-era houses in Springfield's German Settlers Row.

Hart suggested the format for the *Looking for Lincoln* project in Springfield and donated his personal historical research and ideas that were used for that project.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Hart and his wife Ann were also responsible for proposing the design for the City of Springfield's streetscape. Their design proposal and advocacy was adopted in lieu of another proposal for a contemporary design. As a part of their advocacy, the Harts purchased and donated the first period lights for Springfield's streetscape. Since that first donation, the use of the design has spread throughout downtown Springfield and is now moving into several neighborhoods, including the Iles Park Neighborhood.

In 1999, Hart was given the City of Springfield's Preservationist of the Year award.

In 2012, Hart was presented with the Logan Hay Medal. The bronze medal is awarded infrequently and is the highest honor given by The Abraham Lincoln Association to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the mission of the Association.

In 2014, Hart was awarded the Illinois State Historical Society's Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions over the decades to promoting the history of the Prairie State.

In 2015, Hart was awarded the Springfield NAACP Chapter's 2015 Legal and Political Award.

From 2003 until 2015, Mr. Hart served on the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery and was Chairman of the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery. He is a founding member of the Board of Directors of Springfield Illinois African American History Foundation Museum and served from . Hart remains a member of the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association and of the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

For at least the last ten years Hart has been the editor of *For The People*, a newsletter of The Abraham Lincoln Association, and the *Iles Files*, a newsletter of the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

Hart's personal interest has been in the history of Springfield during the time that Abraham Lincoln lived there and in particular in the presence there of African-Americans. He is also interested in particular areas of Sangamon County during the period of early settlement. He has divided his published research on these two areas into the Spring Creek Series focusing on Lincoln's Springfield, and the Sugar Creek Series focusing on the early settlement of Cotton Hill and Ball Townships in Sangamon County.

Spring Creek Series

Lincoln's Springfield – The Public Square (1823-1865) (2004)

Springfield, Illinois' Nineteenth Century Photographers (2005)

Early Sangamon County Antiques – The Barringer Exhibit (2005) (Editor)

Lincoln's Springfield – The Underground Railroad (2006)

Lincoln's Springfield – The Early African American Population (2008)

The Early Court Houses of Sangamon County, Illinois (1821-1837) (2008)

Lincoln in Illinois: The Bicentennial of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln (2009) (Editor)

Lincoln's Springfield – Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher (2009)

Lincoln's Springfield – Springfield's Early Schools (2009)

The Colored Section, Oak Ridge Cemetery (2009)

Lincoln's Springfield – Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie (2011)

Camp Butler: A Civil War Story: Photographs of Union Soldiers (2013)

Circuses in Lincoln's Springfield (1833-1860) (2013)

Preston Butler: Photographer in Lincoln's Springfield (2014)

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Jameson Jenkins and James Blanks, African Americans in Lincoln's Springfield (2014)

Lincoln's Springfield: The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln: May 3rd and 4th, 1865 (2015)

Lincoln's Springfield Neighborhood (2015)

Sugar Creek Series

Jones Cemetery Tour: Ball, Cotton Hill & Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2002)

Philemon Stout Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2006)

Christopher Newcomer Cemetery: Woodside Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2009)

Sugar Creek Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2010)

Vigal Cemetery: Cotton Hill Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2010)

David Brunk Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2010)

Cumberland Sugar Creek Cemetery, The Old Burying Ground (2012)

George Brunk Cemetery, Cotton Hill Township, Sangamon County, Illinois (2012)

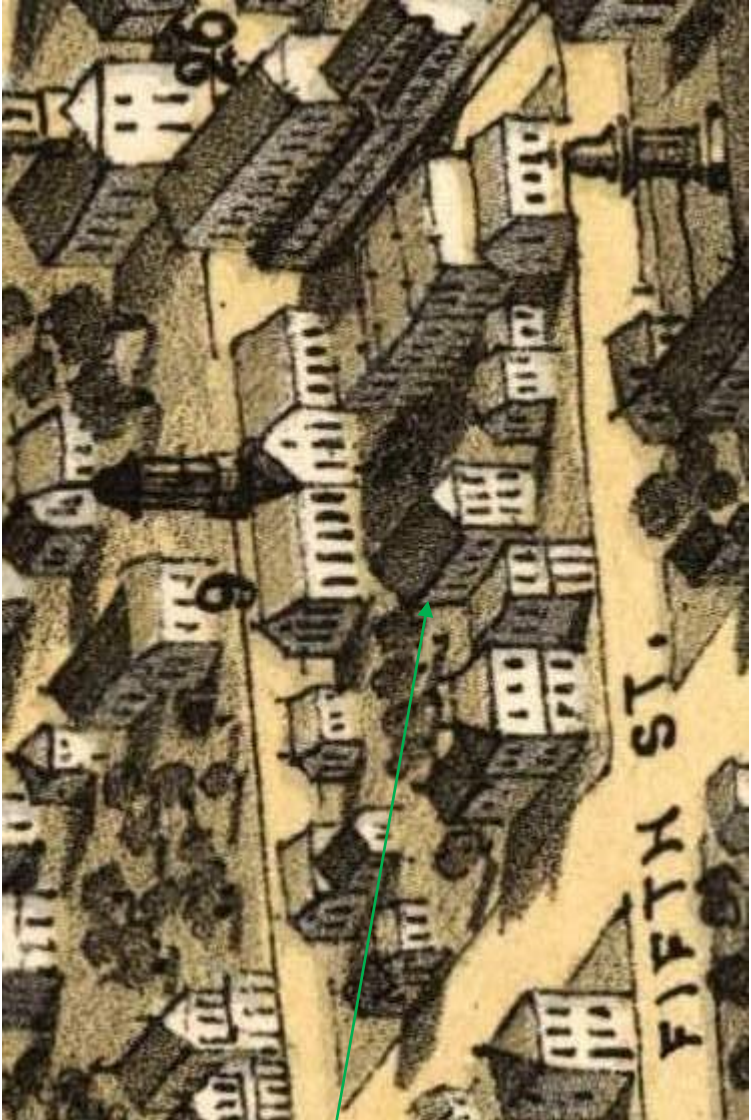
The Strawbridge – Shepherd Farm Site

Thomas Royal: Revolutionary War Soldier and Early Sangamon County Settler (2016)

A Genealogy of the Descendants of John Ashmore: A Tribute to James Newton Ashmore (2016)

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

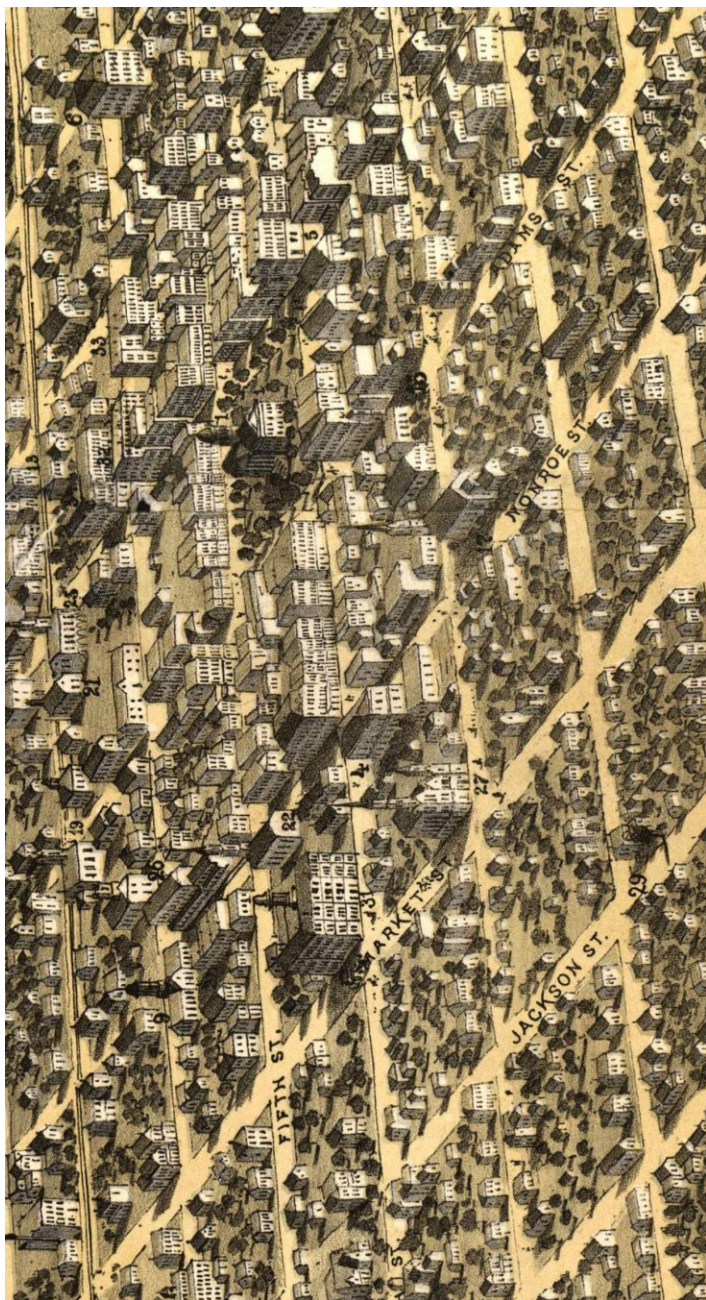
Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



Springfield Academy

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher



LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

Abel W. Estabrook: Robert Todd Lincoln's Abolitionist Teacher

Springfield Academy

George Latham Residence

Lincoln Home